

LostVault:

Unlocked

A Quarterly Publication from LostVault.com

IN THIS ISSUE

About Us.....	2
Capital Punishment Talk.....	7
Feature Article	3
Featured Pen Pals	4
From The Editor's Desk	2
Inmate Art and Writing.....	8
Lene's Chit Chat.....	5
Motty's Porch	5
Puzzles.....	10
Vault Jokes & Junk.....	9
Vaulter of the Month	4
View From the Inside, A.....	6

COVER ART CONTEST

We're giving away \$25 in each issue of our newsletter to an inmate artist! See page 3 for complete contest details.



**CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR WINTER 2007
COVER ART CONTEST WINNER**

Shannon of www.myspace.com/clarkbarred



ABOUT US

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 penpals@lostvault.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 directly sent to us unless you are on death row. We verify that you are indeed a death row inmate.** The address to send all requests for pen pal application:

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 quarterly publication of LostVault.com, a volunteer-based website offering pen pal ads to inmates incarcerated worldwide.

CONTRIBUTING COLUMNISTS: Michelle Goldbeck (Sewergrrl), Jenn O'Ryan (Bunny), Morrigayn Johnson (MotM), Lene Gabrielsen (Cassi), Jennie (paleone)

CONTRIBUTING INMATE ARTISTS/WRITERS: Robert Pruet (Livingston, TX), Eric Freudenberg (Dannemora, NY), Thomas Wright (Gatesville, TX), Tim S. Morton (Rosharon, TX)

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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, and also indicate if you wish to have your facility listed. For example: John Doe - Prison Name, City, State. **Anything sent to LostVault: Unlocked becomes property of LostVault and you thereby allow us to use it on our website and/or in our newsletter.***

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.
- Unfortunately we cannot offer newsletter subscriptions, either free or paid. Therefore, we ask that you share your newsletter with your friends.
- Please note that our columnists or staff cannot personally write new pen pals, nor can we personally find one for you.

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

Michelle Goldbeck (Sewergrrl)

Welcome to another issue of *Unlocked*. I intended to get this out a few days earlier, but I've been exhausted beyond belief. I found out the end of October that my husband and I are expecting our first child, due in early July. I'm excited, scared, happy, and terrified...all at once. We got to hear the heartbeat last month and it was WILD! I still cannot believe that I'm growing a human inside me. WOW!!! We should be able to find out the sex in February, so that will be exciting.



I never realized that a person could be so tired, all the time! It's like an alien invaded my body and took over most of its normal functionality. My mind is mush and I'm pretty much useless after 7 PM. If I'm not tired, I'm hungry. Bananas are like crack and cashews are worth their weight in gold. Luckily, other women with children swear to me that I'll feel normal again in a couple weeks after my first trimester is over. I can't wait.

Things at the Vault are business as usual. There's nothing new or exciting to report from my end in regards to the website. Obviously my mind is elsewhere and will be for the next 6 months, so I apologize in advance if I bore you to tears with my incessant babble. My poor pen pals must sleep through my letters these days (sorry guys!). Know I love you all and think of you all the time, even though I don't write as often like I'd like.

Please send us your art and writing to use in the newsletter. I don't want to resort to begging, but I will! We were short this issue so I had to dig up an old, but great piece from 2004 from an inmate I know. While he's not a regular pal, we've written here and there for over 3 years. Since I didn't ask his permission to use his work, I put him as a featured pen pal so he can't get mad at me! haha Seriously, I really don't think he'll mind - he's a good guy. If you're a free world person looking for a new pal, please consider writing to Tim Morton.

On that note, I bid you a fond farewell until the March issue. I wish you all a healthy and happy holiday season and new year.

Take care of yourselves,
 Michelle



LostVault: Unlocked COVER ART CONTEST

We are soliciting art from inmates to be used on the cover page of each issue of *LostVault: Unlocked*, LostVault's quarterly newsletter. While we accept art and writing on any topic for all our editions, this is a special contest tailored to LostVault. Because we are a pen pal website dedicated to finding new friends for inmates, **we are seeking art that conveys an inmate's view on pen pals and what they mean to them.**

The staff and members of LostVault will be selecting a different piece of artwork for each quarterly edition (4 issues per year) and awarding a **\$25 prize** to each winner. The Newsletter staff will collect and scan each piece of art we receive and determine 10-12 finalists for each newsletter issue. We will then hold a member vote in our discussion forums to choose a winner. In the event of a tie, we will feature one winning art piece in one issue and the other winner in the following issue. You will not have to split your prize with another artist.

There are no deadlines for the art submissions, as this is an on-going contest. Winners will be notified via mail prior to the publish date of their artwork.

Should you have any questions, please write to us at the address to the right with a self-addressed stamped envelope.

Thank you and good luck!

All submissions become property of LostVault and will not be returned. Participation in this or any LostVault sponsored contest does not guarantee you will win. By submitting your artwork to LostVault, you hereby allow us to use your art in our newsletter and/or on our website. LostVault reserves the right to cancel the contest at any time without prior notice.

CONTEST RULES

1. The submission must be no larger than 8½" x 11". Any art exceeding the specified size will be disqualified, as we cannot scan large media;
2. No nudity or overly sexually suggestive pieces;
3. Gang-related art or anything degrading to anyone's gender, race, religion, or sexual preference is prohibited;
4. Medium is not an issue (pen, pencil, watercolor, etc.);
5. Color choices are yours (the art need not be in color);
6. Please inform us with your submission how you would like to be credited if we choose to feature your art on one of our quarterly editions. If you choose to remain anonymous, we assure your privacy; and,
7. The prize money will either be deposited into your inmate account or sent to the recipient of your choice. Please specify to us with your submission how you would like your funds directed and rules for your particular institution should you be chosen as a winner for our contest.

Please submit your artwork to us at:

**LostVault: Unlocked
P.O. Box 294
Washburn, TN 37888**

VAULTER OF THE MONTH

One of LostVault's Finest

Hi, my name is Kerstin (on LostVault "Stinie") and I live in Germany. I am 30 years old and a teacher of handicapped children. This was always the kind of work I wanted to do...and still is.

Most of the kids come from social disadvantaged families, most of them were always told they wouldn't have much of a "nice" future...I see this a little different. Everyone should get the chance to make the best of his life and has the right of an education which brings forward their special talents and needs. To see just little prosperity is reason enough for me to do this job...and I never get such a true thankfulness than from my kids.

I am a huge opposer of the death penalty. I got interested in it about 5 years ago. Living in Germany I couldn't even imagine that it still exists, especially in such an "advanced" country like the USA. I started writing to death row inmates and wanted to learn more about the system that was so difficult for me to understand. With the time one man became very special to me. We wrote very often and I also went to Texas to visit him 3 times. I was aware that this State could take the life of this man away but I am not a person to give up hope or confidence. I knew from the start that I would go this path with Jaime until the end when it had to be. It was hard for me to experience that Texas went on with its plan

and there was nothing for me to do against it.

Even though I am not personally involved any more, I will always strongly oppose the death penalty and hope for a moratorium one day soon.

Maybe I'll even be able to write a letter again... just not yet. But I know that all we do is not for nothing. It's always worth fighting.

I wish you all a blessed Christmas time... especially to you guys on DR.

Take care,
Kerstin



FEATURED PEN PALS

Inmates in Need of Mail



Tim S. Morton
Rosharon, Texas

Thirty-Nine year old Tim is looking to write free-thinking, open minded people with a passion for art and philosophy.

Tim's art is featured on page 8 in the Inmate Art and Writing column.

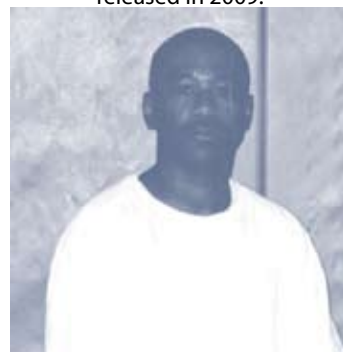


Marcus Blackwell
Joliet, IL

Twenty-six year old Marcus loves reading, music and meeting new people. From Chicago originally, he is looking for friends who value loyalty, honesty and trust as he does.

Leon Johnson
Albion, PA

Leon is a fun loving guy who loves travel, music and movies. He is looking for someone in hopes of a long term relationship to start life over when he is released in 2009.



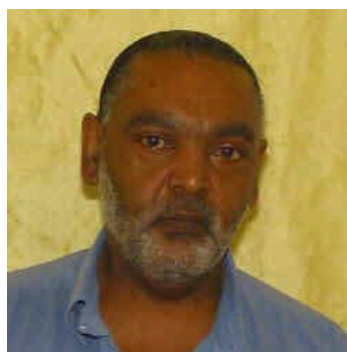
Donald Franklin
Mansfield, OH

Donald has a friendly attitude and a positive outlook. He is searching for friendship, but is grateful for correspondence on just about any topic!



David Colon
Tamms, IL

David is a down to earth kind of guy who is business minded, yet has a fun streak. He's looking to find his one special lady, but would also like to meet wonderful friends.



If you would like to write David, Donald, Leon, Marcus, or Tim, 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.

MOTTY'S PORCH

Morrigayn Johnson (MotM)



When I was younger and we moved for the first time, people called me a "redneck", "hillbilly", and being "from the country". To me, I was not, but then I also thought of people from the country in a different light. I had been in the -- well, you could call it the suburbs in a way... of a smallish city for most of my life. I was not anything at all from the country. Country was

not just where you were from, but what you did. Oh, I still think that way today, but in a different sense.

Today I know that you don't have to be a beer drinkin', hell raisin', no shoe wearin', muddin', redneck type (and that's just the girls!) to be country. Granted, that can be some of the more fun parts of being country, but the truth to being country is more about family, friends and life. My only guess as to why in the world it took so long for me to find these simple answers is that sometimes the most obvious answers are the ones in front of you.

For years I alienated myself from my family the best I could. I did surround myself with lots of friends and lived the best life I could. This Thanksgiving, when I looked around the room and saw my family, lots of friends, and all of us living and full of life - I realized then that THIS, all of us sitting around in the room



LENE'S CHIT CHAT

Lene Gabrielsen (Cassi)



Hello all, I'm back to chit chat again. I'm in the first semester of my first year as a nurse student. I am glad I didn't know beforehand how extremely busy it is, because I don't know if I would have been so excited about getting started. It's a good thing that we don't know it all, because if we did, maybe we wouldn't dare start something new in the first place! Taking care of kids and studies at the same time is challenging. I feel guilty

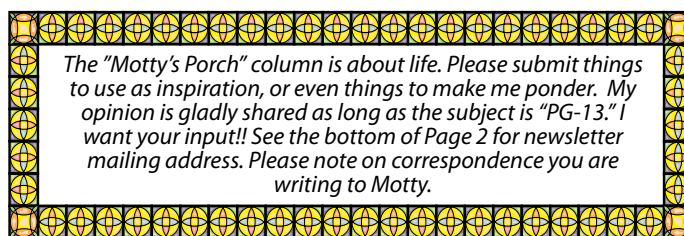
for not writing all the letters I should write. I came into my friends lives because I figured they needed someone by their side - that mail could cheer them up and stuff. But as it is I am really neglecting my pen pals. I'm so very sorry about that, but I'm so pressed for time!

If I'm not studying, I'm doing the usual mommy stuff. It isn't easy being the only parent around here, that's for sure. I chose this life though, and I feel blessed in so many ways, because I have a group of wonderful kids, awesome friends and I get to do something I've dreamt of for so long. If only I could get more hours in day it would all be good!! I am not the only free world pen pal that is feeling a lot of guilt that we don't say in touch as often as we'd like. Life is just busy for many of us, and it is harder than other times to sit down and write letters. I shouldn't really speak for everyone, but I am pretty sure they agree with me that it doesn't feel good to "bump" you down on our list of priorities from time to time. It's not that we don't care, and it isn't because you did something - it is very simple, life is busy and we can't make it stand still.

laughing and loving and just being alive, is what being country is all about.

The ability to bring life to different situations - the farm, the family, the friends; THAT is being country. Because I now know that being country is not just a part of life, but really all of life, and all that life encompasses, I am proud when someone says I'm country. Even if they don't understand it like I do, I know what it means to both me, and many others. That is why I'm proud to be a country girl, even if it means that I don't always wear shoes and sometimes eat food right off the vine or tree -- sunshine makes everything taste better. Knowing that "I grew that" or "I made them smile" or "I can help fix that" - all of those things are part of being country. And in truth, they should all be in each one of us. They probably are, you just have to unlock it.

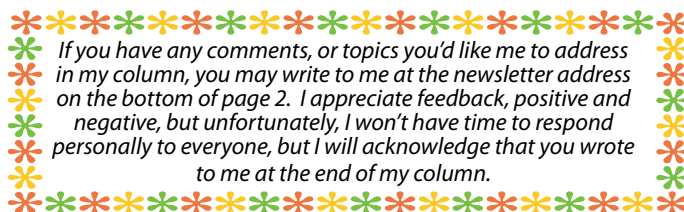
Happy Holidays everyone- take some time to make someone else smile - it'll bring out the country in ya!!!



Christmas is around the corner, and I am looking forward to it. I always hide the gifts for the kids really well because I don't want them to sneak a peek. The gifts for me are another matter entirely. If I get gifts in the house that says "To Lene", it's a given that I will circle around them, feeling them out, until I can't resist any longer and I just HAVE to open them. I can't rest until I know what's inside. I do the same with the kids' presents. If I don't know what's inside, I have to open them too! I'm not a good role model, so the rule is: "Do as I say, not what I do". If someone tells me they have a surprise for me, it is pure torture. I will try to find out what it is, ask one million questions to see if I can guess what it is. The same applies if someone says they have something to tell me and don't tell me right away. Don't do that to me! And don't tell me there's something I don't want to know, because you can bet your life that once you say that, I really, really, really want to know. I must know!

I know Christmas time must be hard for you girls and guys in prison. Things slow down, there's no mail, and knowing that your friends and loved ones are gathering and you can't be there, it can't be easy. Nevertheless, I wish you peaceful days. I think that no matter where we are, we can spend some time reflecting over the year that passed, and re-group and make new goals for the New Year.

Take care and stay safe,
Lene



A VIEW FROM THE INSIDE

An Inmate's Perspective

Living on Death Row: Groundhog Day Syndrome

by Robert Pruett, Texas Death Row

Those of us living on Texas's death row are presented with many challenges and obstacles in our everyday lives. We expend an enormous amount of energy fighting for our lives and constantly struggle to cope with the stress involved with being separated from our loved ones, not to mention the loss of our freedom. There are officers who seem to think their job is to punish us rather than maintain the security of the institution; suffice it to say that these rogues are a constant reminder of exactly where we are... These are the obvious challenges we face here on the row. I'd like to expose a problem that is more subtle, yet can be equally detrimental to our psychological well-being.



Living conditions on death row in Texas are virtually identical to those of TDCJ administrative segregation (ad. seg.), which was designed by a team of criminal psychologists. The objective was to create a behavioral modification system that punished recalcitrant inmates with the harshest living conditions (level 3). Eventually the inmate would be reintegrated back

into the general prison population. This system wasn't designed to house inmates long-term, yet TDCJ has misused it by keeping people in ad. seg. for decades and forcing death row inmates to live under its guidelines as long as we have a death sentence.

For those who aren't familiar with the environment in which we live, please allow me to briefly elaborate: We are locked in single-man cells (ten feet by seven feet) for twenty-three hours a day, with one hour of recreation per day depending on your level status. Anytime we leave our cells, we must be restrained with handcuffs and escorted by two officers.

All visits are noncontact, and recreation occurs in a single-man cage, alone. All physical contact is strictly prohibited... If you are level 1 status, you can utilize the commissary to purchase an AM/FM radio, shoes, fan, coffee pot, typewriter, hygiene and writing supplies, and various food items. Levels 2 and 3 aren't allowed any electrical appliances (except a fan) or any food items. We aren't allowed televisions, microwaves, access to swimming pools, or any other absurd things like that, as the media would have the general public believe.

If there is an official name for the debilitating disease that often arises out of these living conditions, I am unaware of it. I like to refer to what torments many of us as Groundhog Day Syndrome. How many of you have seen the movie *Groundhog Day*, in which Bill Murray's character keeps waking up on Groundhog Day only to relive that day over and over again? In a sense, this is basically what most of us are experiencing, in that we find ourselves repeating the same old things, day after day. While the movie is highly entertaining and absolutely hilarious, those of us on the row (or ad. seg.) who fall victim to Groundhog Day Syndrome are in danger of developing severe psychological disorders.

The environment is geared toward sensory deprivation. The scenery never changes for us: cold steel bars, imposing white walls, dirty concrete floors, and whatever view we have from our four-foot-by-three-inch windows, which usually isn't anything to write home about. Our options for action each day are limited to recreating, writing, reading, creating art, listening to the radio, and talking with each other through our doors, which only contributes to our diminishing social skills since we aren't

face-to-face. We can also play such games as chess or Dungeons and Dragons by calling out our plays through the door.

It is so easy to find yourself trapped by a fixed schedule best described as tediously monotonous, simply because we are restricted as to what we can do. We're lulled into a routine that repeats itself for months and even years at a time. Our every action soon becomes mechanical, and our behavior becomes more reflective of a robot than of a human being. I sometimes get my days mixed up, thinking I did something on a certain day when in fact it was a week before. Life becomes a blur, creativity diminishes, depression can creep in, some fall prey to psychotic behavior, and others attempt suicide (dropping your appeals is suicide). The adverse effects of Groundhog Day Syndrome are often lethal.

The other day, I asked someone I hadn't seen in a while how he was doing. He just stared at me somberly and replied, "Dude, it's the same fucking thing every day. I wake up, go to rec., eat chow, write a little, read a little, talk shit, go to sleep, then wake up and repeat the same damn thing. I'm burnt out!" Most of us here can truly empathize with that.

To further illustrate just how destructive Groundhog Day Syndrome can be, I'd like to share a very personal story with you: Before coming to death row, I spent a couple of years in ad. seg. A close friend of mine, who I'd spent some time with in general population, was moved into a cell next to me. We passed the time by reminiscing about old days, and we even shared our dreams, hopes, and aspirations. Then one day, my friend came to his door and told everyone he didn't want to talk to any of us and we should leave him alone. Huh? He rejected every attempt I made to communicate with him by ignoring me. He refused to accept his mail, didn't go to rec. or shower, and once they called him for a visit and he refused. Maybe a month or so of this went on, and he began talking to himself. Finally, he covered himself in his own feces and started slashing his arms with a razor... As I watched them carry my old friend away, covered in feces and blood, I felt a profound sense of sorrow and loss. It was very difficult for me to comprehend what had transpired right before my very eyes. This was my first experience with how psychologically damaging this environment can be. I'm positive that what happened to my friend was the result of Groundhog Day Syndrome evolving into psychosis.

Peering through the window in my cell last night, I watched an electrical storm bring light and life to an open field just beyond the prison grounds. It was an awe-inspiring spectacle to behold, and it filled me with a sense of tranquility that has eluded me for quite some time. As I watched the breathtaking bright flashes of light streak across the sky, I found myself reminiscing of a time when I was just a small boy. My mother, brother, sister, and I were all living in Houston when a major storm rolled in. We were all huddled close together, watching the violent winds whip the tall pines around like mere twigs. We were dirt poor (my mother being a single parent at the time, trying to raise three kids on welfare), and I'd already experienced much adversity in my short five-year life, but I felt a strong sense of security with my family that night, despite the storms in our lives. My mother never let my siblings and me forget she loved us.

As I fondly reflected on the innocence of my youth, the lightning illuminating the razor-wired fences brought me back from my reverie. It's usually quite noisy on this cellblock at that time of night, but as I watched the storm I noticed it was peacefully quiet.

Maybe I wasn't the only one gazing out the window, remembering a time long past? Every now and then Mother Nature does her part in helping us combat the tedium of death row.

This article was originally published in the book *Prison City: Life With the Death Penalty in Huntsville, Texas* by Ruth Massingil and Ardyth Broadri Sohn (Mar 2007), available at Amazon.com. Used with permission from the author, Robert Pruett.

CAPITAL PUNISHMENT TALK

Jennie (paleone)



Hello! Welcome to my first actual column in the death row section. Last issue we used an important article and writing from the inside. This issue I have decided to give everyone a view of the death penalty from the view point of the loved ones of an inmate executed. Here is a portion of a diary entry I wrote the day a friend of mine was executed. I have edited it to fill space for the page.

5/19/05 - Well, there it is, the dreaded date. What a day this has been. What a roller coaster. First let me say that I had little or no sleep last night. I laid here and laid here and thought I was falling asleep until I realized I was still just laying there, no dream land for me. I woke up not truly wanting to grasp the reality that today was the 19th. We got to the Polunsky Unit at 7:30 to have our last visit with Rich. It was very nice seeing him. He was still in good spirits and said he was in complete peace. And you know what, in looking in those eyes of his, I could see that complete peace and love of God within him. I told him that I was not handling this well, he said "Jennie, there are like 500 other people here on death row who need you, Stay strong ok girl!" I told him I loved him, not in a lovey way though, but as in utmost respect and friendship.

Wow, I just cant express in words what an impact Richard Cartwright has left on me. I remember hearing him saying how he would almost like getting into the fights with guards because it was physical contact. Texas and their prison system is just plain sick. To not even allow loved ones a last hug from him. Come on. But hey, that's Texas for you.

After the visits we made our way back to Huntsville and went to the hotel and made our signs. My sign said "the death penalty only creates more victims" and had photos of Rich. Then below it I said "Richard Cartwright's Innocent Blood is on your hands". We then made our way to the Hospitality house to wait for Rich to call and for the witnesses to be "briefed" on what was about to happen. That was emotional to hear, it just made it more "real". *sigh*.

After that, we just sat around, mostly just being quiet. Finally the phone rang and Rich talked to a few people. When it came to me, it was basically not even that I could talk to him. All I said was "I can't talk because others need to, but know that I love you and you better keep moshing up there..God bless" he laughed and I am sure he said something while I was handing the phone to his mom. But that part was kind a blur to me. It became pretty darn real at that point. But I still hadn't cried. I felt weird for not crying yet. But maybe it would be mourning a person who was still alive. At 5 we left and went to the Walls Unit. We set up at the protest corner.

It came time for people to go into the death house. First it was the media. Then we saw the his loved ones walk up to the building. I prayed some, then I decided to sing the punk version of amazing grace (to myself of course, I cant sing/yell or anything sounding good). Then I began to sing the portion of a song I used to play for him that says "pick up your sword, stand up and fight, face the wrong and protect the right". Want to know what actually got me crying? Because let me tell you, I as crying my eyes out like crazy. After I sang those verses of weary soldier, I said to myself "man, I need to remember to write to Rich and tell him I sang those for him". Then I realized how stupid I was, I can never write him again. Then I had uncontrollable tears. I was shaking and not very well composed. Then I heard Rich's voice in my head saying "Jennie don't cry, stand strong, stand proud". Of course that made me cry even more. Then I looked at his photos on my sign and they began to have a white glow around them, for all I know it was the sun reflecting my tears, but all I know is that the board began to glow with a ring of white around it. Then I saw his family walk out of the Walls Unit. I know Rich was in complete peace, sure he was likely scared when they put him up on the gurney, but he knew he was going to heaven.

In an hour we went to the funeral home. His precious body laid there and I lost it. I saw that body in complete animation earlier that same day. We all went up and paid our respects, and finally touched him. I got up there, grabbed his arm told him I loved him, and I always believed him. I then said "I always told you I wanted to give you a hug, and I gave a hug to him. After a short memorial service we went up to his body and stood in a circle around the body and said a prayer. Then, we each paid a short respect to him before we left. I grabbed his hand and told him I sang for him just like I thought I would write him about. I then kissed his cheek (we all did).

Anyone who has lost a loved one never knows what it's like to see them at a funeral home within an hour of their loved one dying like the loved ones of executed death row inmates.



US Supreme Court Halts Executions

On November 1, 2007, the Supreme Court ruled it will allow no more prisoners to be put to death until it reviews the legality of lethal injection. A ruling on this informal moratorium is expected to be issued next summer.



In the Leading Execution State, Many Receive Probation for Murder

In a recent investigation published in The Dallas Morning News, researchers found that 120 defendants convicted of murder in Texas between 2000 and 2006 received only a sentence of probation. In Dallas County, twice as many convicted murderers were sentenced to probation as were sent to death row. Typically in these cases, a defendant pleads guilty to murder, receives probation, and, with good behavior, can have the murder charged wiped from his or her record.

The News began researching probation-for-murder sentences in 2006 after a white man from a "politically prominent family," John Alexander Wood, received probation for the murder of an unarmed prostitute. Reporters examined government records and interviewed key people in the murder cases in order to obtain their data. Their research excluded capital murder and manslaughter cases.

Key findings of the News' research included:

- The majority of the murderers in the study were minorities who killed other minorities, a pattern typical of murders overall in Dallas.
- Many of the victims, like John Wood's victim, were considered "unsympathetic," especially in comparison to the defendant.
- More than one third of the defendants in the study violated their probation with crimes other than murder and were subsequently sent to prison.

According to the News' sources, probation will not be a sentencing option for juries much longer. Under a recent Texas law, juries will not be able to sentence a defendant with probation if the murder occurred after September 1, 2007. Judges, however, will retain this power and prosecutors can continue to arrange plea bargains.

Texas leads the nation with 26 executions this year and 405 since 1976 when the death penalty was reinstated. Nationwide, probation accounted for 9% of the total murder sentences.

In Memoriam - May They Rest In Peace

09/25/07 = Michael Richard (TX)



INMATE ART AND WRITING

Showcasing Hidden Talent

A Daddy's Girl ***"From a Father in prison"***

In the stars,
On the land,
I wish we were walking hand in hand,
my little girl,
So I could see your pretty smile,
Once again baby girl,
Like when it first began.
Jasmine, Mommy and her Daddy till the end,
Your Daddy has been away awhile,
I know you miss me too,
Cause my hearts been broke without
You too Jasmine.

Listen baby girl,
You are my Jasmine Lee,
And that will always be.
I can't come home today,
Even if we both pray,
But a couple more tomorrows,
And Daddy will be home to stay,
For each and everyday,
You, mommy and me.

We can go for a swim, or just sit in the sun,
We can play hop scotch and have fun,
We can laugh, we can cry,
Because there will be no more last good bye's,
Your Daddy will be home to stay.

So until that day my Jasmine Lee,
Your Daddy's love will always be,
For each and everyday,
You, mommy and me, forever.

Eric Freudenberg
Dannemora, NY

Are you a writer or artist? We are always accepting inmate submissions for this column. Submit your writing and art to the address on the bottom of page 2. Please include how you would like your name credited and also indicate if you wish to have your facility listed. For example: John Doe - Prison Name, City, State. Anything sent to LostVault becomes property of LostVault and you thereby allow us to use it on our website or newsletter.



Thomas Wright
Gatesville, TX



Tim S. Morton
Rosharon, TX

VAULT JOKES AND JUNK

Jenn O’Ryan (Bunny)



JOKES

Q: What do you call fifty penguins in the Arctic?
A: Lost! REALLY lost! Penguins live in Antarctica.

A couple purchased an old home in Northern New York State from two elderly sisters. Winter was fast approaching and the husband was concerned about the house’s lack of insulation. “If they could live here all those years, so can we!” he confidently declared. One January night the temperature plunged to below zero, and the couple woke up to find interior walls covered with frost. The husband called the sisters to ask how they had kept the house warm. After a rather brief conversation, he hung up. “For the past 30 years,” he muttered, “they’ve gone to Florida for the winter.”

New Year’s resolutions you can actually accomplish!

10. Read less.
9. Gain weight.
8. Stop exercising.
7. Watch more TV.
6. Procrastinate more.
5. Drink. Drink some more.
4. Start being superstitious.
3. Spend more time at work.
2. Stop bringing lunch from home:

US Holidays and Observances

- Dec 1 - AIDS Awareness Day (World Aids Day)
Dec 5 - Hanukkah – through December 12
Dec 7 - Pearl Harbor Day - Anniversary of Japan bombing Pearl Harbor, 1941
Dec 10 - Human Rights Day – Adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations, 1948
Dec 14 - NASCAR founded, 1947
Dec 17 - First flight by the Wright Brothers, 1903 (59 seconds, Outer Banks NC)
Dec 20 - Eid al-Adha - Muslim Feast of Sacrifice – lasts 3 days
Dec 22 - Winter Solstice (Yule Holiday) - Winter Begins – longest night of the year
Dec 25 - Christmas Day (US Federal Holiday)
Dec 26 - Kwanzaa – through Jan 1 - a celebration of family, community & culture
- Jan 1 - New Year’s Day (US Federal Holiday)
Jan 9 - First Income Tax, 1799
Jan 9 - Stepfather’s Day
Jan 12 - Secret Pal Day
Jan 15 - First Super Bowl Game, 1967
Jan 21 - Martin Luther King’s Birthday (US Federal Holiday)
Jan 27 - Thomas Crapper Day - Anniversary of the death of Thomas Crapper (Debate still continues on whether Mr. Crapper invented the flush toilet)
- Feb 2 - Groundhog Day
Feb 3 - Super Bowl Sunday 2008
Feb 4 - Thank a Mailman Day
Feb 6 - Ash Wednesday - First day of Lent (Christian Holiday)
Feb 12 - Lincoln’s Birthday - now observed on President’s Day
Feb 13 - I Value Your Friendship Day
Feb 14 - Valentine’s Day
Feb 18 - President’s Day (US Federal Holiday)
Feb 22 - Washington’s Birthday – now observed on President’s Day
Feb 29 - Leap Day - February 29th only falls every four years

Winter Fun Facts

- * The largest snowflake recorded was fifteen inches in diameter.
- * Most snowflakes are less than one-half inch across.
- * All snowflakes have six sides and no two snowflakes are alike.

- * Snow is actually clear in color. The white comes from reflecting sunlight.
- * Shoveling snow by hand burns 408 calories per hour, assuming a body weight of: 150 lbs.
- * On average, one inch of rain is equivalent to 10 inches of snow.
- * The US city with the highest average snowfall is Stampede Pass, WA with 440.3 inches.

TRIVIA

Super Bowl Trivia

1. Which teams played in the very first Super Bowl in 1967?
 - a. Baltimore & NY Jets
 - b. Kansas City & Green Bay
 - c. Green Bay & Oakland
 - d. Minnesota & Kansas City
2. Who was the first head coach to lead his team(s) to six Super Bowl appearances?
 - a. Bill Walsh
 - b. Don Shula
 - c. Tom Landry
 - d. Chuck Noll
3. What team was the first to lose 4 Super Bowls in consecutive seasons?
 - a. Steelers
 - b. Bills
 - c. Vikings
 - d. Cowboys
4. Who was the first three-time Super Bowl MVP?
 - a. Terry Bradshaw
 - b. Tom Brady
 - c. Bart Starr
 - d. Joe Montana
5. Which was the only Super Bowl to have been decided by a single point?
 - a. Super Bowl XXXVIII - Patriots vs. Panthers
 - b. Super Bowl XXIII - 49ers vs. Bengals
 - c. Super Bowl XXV - Giants vs. Bills
 - d. Super Bowl XXXIV - Rams vs. Titans
6. What determined which team was the “home team” in the Super Bowl?
 - a. The team with the best record
 - b. It switched back and forth every year
 - c. It depended on who won or lost the previous year
 - d. Coin Flip
7. What was strange but in common for Super Bowls VI, X, XXIV, and XXXIII?
 - a. The losing team never had a penalty called against them
 - b. No team rushed for more than 100 yards
 - c. The first score in each game was an interception touchdown
 - d. The same head coach appeared in all four with three different teams
8. Each of these Super Bowls resulted in a thrilling last minute finish, except for which one?
 - a. Super Bowl V - Cowboys vs. Colts
 - b. Super Bowl XXV - Giants vs. Bills
 - c. Super Bowl XXIII - 49ers vs. Bengals
 - d. Super Bowl VIII - Dolphins vs. Vikings
9. Which domed stadium was the first to host a Super Bowl?
 - a. The Georgia Dome
 - b. The Metrodome
 - c. The Superdome
 - d. The Silverdome
10. Which two teams have played in the most Super Bowls against each other in the first 40 Super Bowls?
 - a. Bengals and 49ers
 - b. Cowboys and Steelers
 - c. Cowboys and Bills
 - d. Dolphins and Redskins

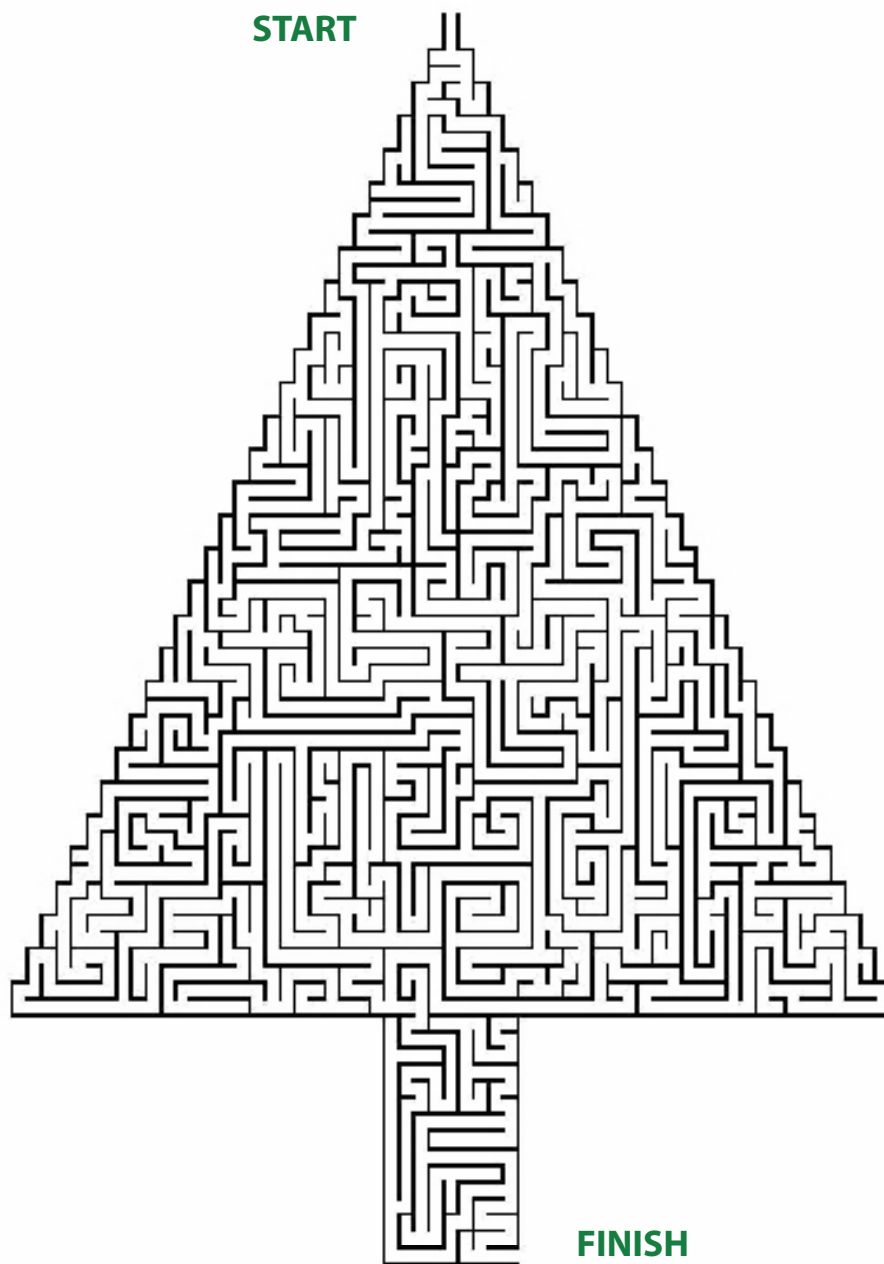


Solution

1. b 2. b 3. b 4. d 5. c 6. b 7. a 8. d 9. c 10. b

CHRISTMAS TREE MAZE

START



FINISH

HOLIDAY TIP#37



NEVER CATCH SNOWFLAKES
WITH YOUR TONGUE
UNTIL ALL THE BIRDS
HAVE GONE SOUTH
FOR THE WINTER.

Winter Quotes

I was just thinking, if it is really religion with these nudist colonies, they sure must turn atheists in the wintertime.

~ Will Rogers / Humorist/Actor, 1879-1935

I prefer winter and fall, when you feel the bone structure of the landscape - the loneliness of it - the dead feeling of winter. Something waits beneath it, the whole story doesn't show.

~ Andrew Wyeth / Painter, 1917 -

Spring, summer, and fall fill us with hope; winter alone reminds us of the human condition.

~ Mignon McLaughlin / Author, 1913 - 1983

There are only two seasons -- winter and baseball.

~ Bill Veeck / American baseball player, 1914 - 1986



next issue

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