



# GIC TIP JOURNAL



## Transgendered In Prisons

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*“Support, education, outreach and advocacy for the transgender community”*



### Landmark Trans-Prisoner Survey Started

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The opinions expressed in the *GIC TIP Journal* are the opinions of the author and do not necessarily represent the opinions or the official policy of the GIC, its board members or officers, or that of the *GIC TIP Journal* and its editors.

Today the *GIC TIP Journal* began circulating what appears to be the only comprehensive national trans-prisoner study ever attempted in this country. It was long overdue.

Presently, there is little or no reliable data available on our transgender prison population. No one knows how many there are, and except for mostly word of mouth anecdotal evidence, few are aware of, or seem to care about, their plight. Isolated behind prison walls, often deserted by friends, family and community, misunderstood and neglected by a system more designed to punish than to help them, let alone treat their disorder, they were largely abandoned to their fate.

Since its inception in December of 2000, the *GIC TIP Journal* has been filled the horror stories that grew out of that neglect and indifference.

They included rapes and assaults of all kinds, murders, self-mutilations, mental cruelty and, when it became more than they could bear, suicides and attempted suicides. The amazing thing was that these people survived at all, and the question arises if this is the norm and what can be done, or is being done, to begin to correct the problem.

The purpose of this long-term study is to try to definitively answer those questions and to shed some light on the problems associated with the placement, care and treatment of gender variant prisoners in facilities that are, almost exclusively, based solely on traditional gender stereotypes. In so doing, it will also hopefully point the way to more creative, efficient and humane solutions.

Gianna E. Israel, who is also a contribut-

ing editor to the *GIC TIP Journal*, is the survey’s principal author. Based in California, Ms. Israel is a gender-specializing counselor. In private practice she provides nationwide telephone consultation, individual and relationship counseling; evaluations, and referrals. She is also principal author of the book *Transgender Care* (Temple University Press 1987) and a member of the Harry Benjamin International Dysphoria Association (HBIGDA). On numerous occasions, she has additionally

served as consultant and forensic case manager on state and federal civil and criminal complaints in pursuance of medical and psychological treatment for institutionalized and incarcerated persons.

Over a year in the making, the survey has undergone extensive review and editing by a number of Ms. Israel’s professional colleagues in order to ensure its objectivity and relevancy to its target audience. To obtain an adequate

sample and to help us identify institutional trends, Ms. Israel anticipates that it will be a five-year study. Once sufficient data has been collected, the results will be carefully analyzed and then published.

Those wishing to remain anonymous are given that option. In general, any references to individuals will be done in such a way as to protect their privacy.

Anyone wishing to obtain a copy of the survey for themselves or for a friend, should send their request, along with the relevant contact information, to the following address:

GIC of Colorado, Inc.  
1455 Ammons Street, Suite 100  
Lakewood, CO 80215  
Attn: Jessie Shafer



**Gianna E. Israel**

## Michelle Lynne Kosilek

W-53865 Box 43  
Norfolk, MA 02056

### *Rebuttal to Spring 2002 Goins Editorial*

Of all the corners from which prejudice can spew its poisons, the mind of another transsexual was not one that I would have considered. Of particular concern was Ms. Goins' collection of misinformation—an unfortunate practice that I usually associate with yellow journalism, so popular now in American culture.

I was also offended by her deliberately disrespectful use of male pronouns when referring to me, when it is obvious that I identify as a female. Even such a conservative fact finder as my trial Judge, Mark L. Wolf, saw fit to accord me this small courtesy, and he reprimanded the DOC attorney when he failed to do so.

For those wanting to know the facts, The Clerk of the Court (United States District Court, Boston, MA 02210) is the best source, and the case number is 92-12820 MLW. He will confirm that the following facts existed after the September 14, 2001 hearing on the defendant's motion for a summary judgment, which was denied:

1. I have been a transsexual my whole life and on hormones intermittently since 1967.
2. I was on hormones prior to and while awaiting trial, which was confirmed by a medical exam upon entry to MCI Walpole.
3. I had significant breast development, which was also medically documented.
4. I offered to self-pay for all transition expenses while awaiting trial.
5. I wasted over \$20,000 of my own money in attorney fees, only to be told by my attorney, when the money was gone, that she could no longer represent me due to a conflict of interest. (She had just left the employ of the law firm that was representing the defendant!)
6. For almost 12 years, all the custodial agents have refused my requests for treatment.

7. The defendants admitted in court that their combined legal expenses total several hundred thousand dollars, all wasted in an attempt to deny me the treatment that I had originally offered to pay for.

My trial began on February 4, 2002, and it lasted until February 20. All of the previously established facts were confirmed at the trial. Three expert witnesses agreed that gender identity disorders are a biological condition, as opposed to a mere lifestyle choice. At the trial, the judge agreed that gender dysphoria constitutes a serious medical need requiring treatment, the denial of which is generally prohibited by the Eighth Amendment's ban on cruel and unusual punishment. The reach of his official, written opinion is still pending.

Getting back to Ms. Goins' opinions, I am a bit confused over why she is so upset about my attempt to get medical treatment. As it relates to my culpability in my partner's death, it upsets me that she completely ignores my side of the story. She doesn't mention that I was forced to defend myself from a violent, unethical therapist, who was taller and fifty pounds heavier than I and armed with a butcher knife. I only had a wire sling from a hanging planter. Adding to my fears and my panic-stricken state of mind was the awful memory of being stabbed once before by a "loved one."

Because I was not allowed to testify or present exculpatory factual evidence at my trial, my conviction is under appeal (Bristol Co. superior Court. Motion for New Trial 3/17/2001).

Concerning my request for SRS, this whole uproar has been blown all out of proportion. SRS is included the standards of care for GID, and it is much less expensive than organ transplants and hip replacements, which are routinely done on prisoners. On the other hand, to spend hundreds of thousands of tax payer's dollars to deny legitimate medical care is unconscionable.

So why Ms. Goins is so upset, I can only guess. I hope she finds peace.

Also, I would like to thank Nancy Nangeroni for her spirited defense.

Note to Bunny: I. Nzaddi is at Bridgewater State Hospital, 10 Administration Rd., Bridgewater, MA 02134.

P.S. The State DOC's expert, Dr. Robert Dickey of Correctional Services Canada perjured himself at my trial and at Synthia Kavanaugh's hearing. Proof on request to any transsexual litigating against a prison that uses him as their expert.

## Deanna Fortune 1119411 3-A

Mt. Pleasant Correctional  
1200 E. Washington  
Mt. Pleasant, Iowa 56241

Hello Sisters! I'm so happy to hear from you and to be a part of this community. I feel loved, and I am starting to build a network of friends and family for the future. So many sisters in many different states have given me hope and ideas—sisters sharing their experiences prior to and after their incarceration. Like "Formerly Kitty", who wrote, "Here we are. One big happy family, all in denial." It perfectly describes our relationship with our oppressors.

I've had the same kinds of problems, but I'm refusing to go back into the closet. My Mother tells me of her experience with Jesus and that I need to get the demons out of my life—not what I needed to hear. And I have taken my share of abuse for shaving my legs and curling my hair, a couple of the few remaining personal indulgences that I can still get away with in here that are worth the risk.

Sometimes I am not so lucky. I was recently assaulted twice on the same day, all within a 40 minute time span. The second beating was for refusing to be taken advantage of. After beating me to near unconsciousness, my assailant drug me out of my cell by my pony tail to show off his handiwork to his friends. Blood was dripping on the floor from a cut above my eye, and I'm wondering where the heck is the unit officer and how much more of this can I take before passing

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(Continued from page 2) **Deanna**  
out?

My assailant asked, "Have you had enough?"

Still defiant, I replied, "Never!" which only goaded him on.

Out of the approximately 80 men in our unit, one man finally stepped forward and said, "Chill out! You've made your point." Then he handed me a wash cloth to clean up the blood on my face and on the floor. As a result of that little act of kindness, he was later put on report.

When I finally got medical attention, it took three stitches to close the cut above my eye.

To make a long story short, I lost 16 days of good time, upgraded in my institutional points and had to restart Drug and Alcohol Group. I guess I should be grateful the guy didn't snap my neck, which he could have easily done.

I argued with the administration, but I was told that I was partially to blame. Not wanting to be labeled a snitch, I told them to review the camera tapes and to talk to the C/O's monitoring the cameras, which they did. I tried to pursue it further and find out the officer's names, but they wouldn't tell me. I decided to let it go, because I was worried I would get shipped back to Maximum Camp if I pushed too hard. But one of these times, I will corner them, and they won't be able to retaliate.

This was by no means an isolated incident, and I have read and heard of worse beatings than the one I received. Even so, I would still say you have to stand up for yourself. Personally, I don't like segregation, but if you have to, you have to.

Cynthia Leann la Rochelle mentioned the problems she has with "snot-nosed youngsters" and how the older inmates have stepped in and told them to back off. To some extent, I have had the same experience.

Something that might be of interest to the other subscribers, there is another monthly newsletter for GLBT prisoners called *Inside/Out News*. It comes out of Nebraska and is published by Jim Jimson. He can be contacted at the following address:

Jim Jimmerson  
PO Box 153  
Hubbard, NE 68741-0153

I would also highly recommend a company called Sounds True. They specialize in tapes and books on Western and Eastern religion and philosophy. They occasionally will do a one time donation of a tape or a book if you tell them you are indigent. They can be contacted at:

Sounds True  
PO Box 8010  
Boulder, CO 80306-8010

I have found the Prison Library Project to be a good resource too, although others have told me that they have written them and got no response.

Now I have a favor to ask of you. I will be taking my civil case back to court soon, as well as continuing the appeal on my conviction. I am seeking the assistance of outside organizations and need to locate a qualified expert who is not under the control of the state and who can give me a psychological evaluation. I am indigent and not sure how to go about this.

In the past 3-4 years, all I have managed to do is to go around in a big circle, and now I am back where I started. The burden all lies on me to prove my claim, and I could use some help.

Finally, I wanted to know in which issue of *Transgender Tapestry* was Ms. Israel's article on trans-prisoners. [Spring 2002 #97. Also, thank you for your thoughtful gesture of support. Ed.]

## Gerri

**Jerry D. Green #78210**  
**PO Box 9200**  
**New Boston, Texas 75570**

Hello again from Texas. It was great to get your newsletter, and "Mother Gerri" (I am one of the older girls here.) was a bit shocked to discover you had published my missive.

For the past five years I have been incarcerated in Texas, and I can tell you it has been a cold, hard lesson in cruelty. The first three years were spent in general population, and out

there, I kept my preferred gender hidden. For the past two years, I have been in "safe-keeping," where I can happily flaunt my feminine side. But even here, the guards can be pretty repressive and homophobic.

We have few of the privileges that many of the other inmates in other states enjoy. For example, I was surprised to learn from reading the last newsletter that some of them own their color TV's, can wear makeup and can let their hair grow out. We are allowed only a radio in our cells and are subject to disciplinary action if we are caught wearing makeup, which has to be smuggled in. And we cannot grow our hair out to more than one inch. To get around the makeup restriction, I tattooed in my eyebrows and eye-liner around my eyes.

If I want to watch TV, I have to go into a noisy day room, where there are two TV's mounted ten feet off the floor.. You have crane your neck to watch it, and with 40 other inmates gabbing and both TV's going at full volume, the noise is intolerable.

One of my favorite past-times when I was in the free world was watching television, but under these conditions, I haven't once been able to watch a movie from beginning to end. Instead, I would rather sit in my cell, where it is relatively quiet, and just listen to the radio.

Since Texas prisons have no air conditioning, our already noisy day room is equipped with a giant, airplane-sized fan. It is so loud in the hot summer months that it drowns out both the TV and the din of the inmates' gabble. To carry on a conversation, you almost have to scream, and to hear you, the other person has to cup their hand behind their ear and lean towards you.

During the summers, temperatures reach well over 100 degrees in the buildings and the dorms. As hot as it gets, only rarely do they ever serve ice, even in the chow hall. So it's warm tap water or coffee year around,

Another thing we don't get here is furloughs. Consequently, I was not allowed to attend my Mother's funeral last May.

We are allowed only one five min-

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(Continued from page 3) **Kerri**

ute phone call every 90 days, and we are not allowed access to a computer or the most basic of word processors. Nor do we have access to a copy machine; which creates an extreme hardship when you are trying to do legal work. If you can afford it, you can purchase an old style typewriter in the commissary.

Although there is no treatment offered in this unit for transsexuals, we do have a receptive counselor, who is working to get approval for a regular group therapy session for the "girls" here.

As for the meals here, some are actually good, if you can manage to choke them down within the allotted five minutes. We are never served fresh fruits or vegetables, except on holidays, the latter consisting of only sliced onion, a small apple and one small orange. Otherwise, it's all canned stuff, and I haven't had a fresh salad in five years!

Our visitation rights are pretty limited too. If we are good girls, we periodically get a two-hour visit with our immediate family only. We are allowed one hug and one kiss at the beginning and the end of each visit. You can get a Polaroid picture taken, but it costs you \$6 for each picture. Usually, the only food or drink available comes from a vending machine. Once in a while, they offer a small, sparsely garnished frozen pizza, which costs you an additional \$12.

It's almost impossible to find anything but hate here, and your letters are like a breath of fresh air. It really touched my heart to discover there is someone out there who still cares, although I do enjoy the support of my family too, who are behind me 100%. But the others, including the guards, can be so hateful, and it hurts me deeply to be treated with so much disrespect. I come from a small country town, and to be treated like an insect was quite a shock to me.

But I am fighting back. I am suing the officials here in federal court for failing to provide the protection I sought from certain inmates, which resulted in my being assaulted by those inmates.

I am not the only one who has suffered from their negligence. There have been many rapes, murders and other violence in this unit since I've been here.

One involved the brutal murder of a tiny transsexual named "Rosie" Rudy Delgado. It happened in May of 2000 in the same building where I now live. At the time, I was still living in general population.

A few weeks later, I was also nearly beaten to death in 4-Building. A month later, they reluctantly decided to move me into "safe-keeping."

## Greetings from "Was Pre-Op"

Greetings from Vacaville. Yes, that's right. I am finally in a California medical facility that treats sisters like me with hormones and provides group psychotherapy classes with someone specializing in gender identity disorders (GID). The long fight to get here was worth it, and life is good.

This is a medium security facility housing almost 500 HIV positive inmates and 1500 others who are not. There are roughly 60 sisters here. Some of them have size Double D breasts and everything done except for the SRS. And some, like me, have amputated their male genitalia themselves and are just starting out. Some of you remember me from my article "Was Pre-Op."

Lots of sisters in here are "married" to other male inmates, but all by their own choice.

Yes, we are issued bras by the state, but no panties.

California has a hair policy in their all male facilities that says no hair below the shirt collar, and that does include us, since this is still technically a male facility. But you can tell who the sisters are by their breasts showing through their shirts and their hair tied up in little buns.

I am still learning the ropes, having only been recently transferred here from another state.

On a more personal note, I sent Ophelia a seven page letter in April, and I want to thank Deanna for her wonderful words of encouragement.

"Formerly Kitty" in FCF, my heart goes out to you girl. I know exactly how you feel. Everyone seems to be against you, and you think what's the use.

There is a two inch knife scar on my neck that serves as a reminder of those bad days, left from the time I tried to do

myself in on July 9, 2000. But thank the goddess, I failed. Kitty, please write to me! Unfortunately, I can only receive mail from other inmates through an outside third party, but do try.

When I am feeling depressed, I have found that writing to my sisters in prison to be my salvation. And then, when you get a letter from another sister, it is even better. You begin to feel a kind of sisterly bond developing, and it gives you something to hold to when the going gets rough—someone's shoulder to cry on and also someone to share a laugh with.

## Jennifer in Alabama

I received your Spring 2002 issue and right away found some information that I could use, and, to return the favor, I would like to share some things with you that might be interesting or helpful.

One is that we have begun a class for here at the Bullock Correctional Facility in Alabama for those wanting to explore gay and transgendered issues.

Concerning the "Sister to Sister" article, Ophelia said that we have to hold on to our dreams and not let anything or anyone take them away from us, because we only have one life to live. I agree.

If we go around worrying about what others say or think about us, then we let them control our lives instead of living it for ourselves. So quit hiding behind a fake identity, and live your life as you want it to be.

With respect to Cynthia and her advice on what name to use and when, if she is happy with Cynthia, then that is the name she should go by. What others may think is not her problem. It is theirs.

It has been my experience here in the BCCF that if you continue hiding and being ashamed of who you are, it doesn't earn you as much respect as when you are open about it.

To the "Texas T" who was wondering if she was strange, because having sex made her feel more like a woman, no you are not, and yes there are others who fell the same way. I am sorry for the abuse that you have suffered, but continue to be strong and don't let them tear you down.

Finally, I want to thank Jessie and

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(Continued from page 4) Jennifer

Ms. Israel for the wonderful job you are doing and for all of your support. Take care and know that I love you both.

## Donna

I just got the latest newsletter, and I must say, each issue provides a boost to my morale and helps me cope. There were lots of good articles, some new names (Welcome Sisters!) and even some controversy. Regarding the latter, I must comment on the Guest Editorial by Juli Goins and a similar piece I saw in *Transgender Tapestry*.

Looking at it from the perspective of my case, as well as Ms. Kosilek's, it would seem that when transgendered folks go bad, they often do it in a big way, and the media always eats it right up. You seldom hear about the success stories, so I guess we do kind of give our community a black eye.

To all of the transgendered people out there who have made it through life without any legal problems and are our positive role models, I salute you. You are the fortunate ones.

But for those of us who are not so fortunate or so strong, except for chance and circumstance, you could say that we sprang from the same roots. So is it right to turn our backs on them or harden our hearts and be judgmental? When you say transgendered community, does "community" only apply to the privileged few?

Never forget your roots darling, and always remember those who have suffered and died to pave the way on your road to success. If you look back down the road you came up, you will find that it is usually the poor and the disadvantaged who bear most of the burden and suffer the most. The last thing they need is for you to add more grief to their load. Too often, the last stop on the road for these poor souls is prison, and our prisons are full of them.

There are some very evil people who belong there, but there are also some who don't deserve to be there, because they didn't get a fair trial or because they couldn't afford competent legal counsel. And there are some who were wrongly accused and are innocent. Many will tell you, including me, that it was their in-

ability to get treatment that caused or contributed to their anti-social behavior and led to a life of crime.

That being said, when Ms. Goins says that SRS is not the cure-all that some would have you believe, I agree. But if providing surgery would help rehabilitate some of these people, I have to wonder if it doesn't make more economic sense to do that than to simply warehouse them and turn them back out on the streets, no better—and often worse—than they were when came in. At the very least, they should provide some kind of competent counseling and hormone therapy. Before you can love others, you have to learn to love yourself.

To ignore the problem just doesn't make any sense. They don't deny substance abusers treatment, and they prescribe all kinds of psychotropic drugs for other behavioral problems, so why should they exclude gender identity disorders? Everyone else recognizes it as a mental disorder, so why can't they? They have special treatment programs and special housing for sex offenders, so why not for us?

I could go on and on, but my point is that anyone with a serious medical need—in prison or out—deserves treatment, and the courts have ruled time and again that transsexualism is a serious medical need. And like everyone else, we deserve to be treated with some measure of human dignity.

But the root of the problem is not found in our prisons. Prisons, in a perverse sort of way, are merely a reflection of our society's values. In that value system, people who transgendered do not rate very high. Until that changes on the outside, things are probably not going to change much on the inside.

Ms. Goins has her own ideas about how we should go about changing society's values. In that regard, she seems to think that trans-prisoners are a liability. As such, she also seems to imply it is her right to render her judgment on my life and on my medical needs, as well as Ms. Kosilek's.

She does has a right to her opinion, but until she has walked a mile in our shoes, how valid is that opinion?

Despite her obvious biases against us, she is still a trans-sister, and I do

wish her the best. In the same measure, we could do with a little more understanding and compassion from her. That is what community means—or should mean.

In the meantime, to those of you who are desperate and downhearted, hang in there. It is always darkest before the dawn. Take care and be strong.

**Valjean Royal**  
**PO Box 3030, 104L/D1**  
**Pendleton, IN 46064**

Again, I would like to thank you for another outstanding issue of *GIC TIP Journal* (Spring 2002) I simply love the Journal, and I read each issue cover to cover.

I would like to send my sincere regards to all the Journal readers that have written me after reading my response to "Nowhere to Turn" and "Cruel & Unusual Punishment of She-Males." I truly appreciate the love, support and concern. I would like to correct some errors and add some updates to the latter article.

The "Cruel & Unusual Punishment" article was published in *Hustler* magazine in May of 2000, but the interviews took place in 1998 and 1999, and things have changed since then.

In 1999, I left federal custody and returned to the state of Indiana, hoping to find justice where justice had been denied. Instead, I landed back in prison, convicted of murdering a prison official. But the ongoing fight to prove my innocence seems promising, and I remain optimistic.

I am presently seeking assistance from Innocence Projects all over the US. It hasn't been an easy task. I already have two strikes against me, simply because I am an African American and a Transsexual Diva—meaning that I have lived fully and openly as a Trans-woman all of my adult life.

I also survived as a transsexual child during an era when most states considered transsexuals to be mentally disturbed, in the worst sense of the word. I started dressing full time in female attire at age 13. It was hard being a Trans-child back then, but I possessed a rage to live.

There have been many other changes

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(Continued from page 5) **Valjean**

since Robert Linnet wrote the *Hustler* article. In 1998, the man that I was in love with was transferred. He was eventually released for prison, but is now back in custody for federal parole violations. Needless to say, he abandoned me long before this last stroke of bad luck.

After we parted, I took a vow of celibacy. As of June 11 of this year, I have not broken that vow. I feel it was the best choice that I have ever made in my life, and it has been very important in helping me grow spiritually.

Shortly after my return to the Indiana DOC, I joined a prison Christian fellowship ministry called the "Upward Bounds." The ministry consists of outside church members that volunteer to minister to prisoners.

At first, there was a little whispering about the fact I wear makeup—always perfectly applied—but that soon subsided.

I was the only transsexual that was a member, and I will never forget my first meeting. The church sponsor that evening was the Deliverance Temple. For some reason, I felt compelled to stand up and give my testimony. I poured my heart out and expressed my desire to serve God and to be accepted by the world as I am—a transsexual. I said the "Sinner's Prayer," and I have since been faithfully serving God in any way I can.

The Deliverance Temple volunteers immediately adopted me, and they have really become my family. Some of the sisters now visit me regularly, and others send me letters and beautiful cards all the time. They always sign them "To our sister in Christ." And I know that through my faith, they have learned that trans-women are God's children also and may serve Him just as well as anyone.

Being celibate has given me the time and the courage to truly embrace myself instead of relying others for the love and the acceptance that we all seek. It has been my experience that male lovers are only looking for an outlet to their sexual urges rather than a real loving relationship.

Unfortunately, very feminine trans-women in most all-male facilities find themselves forced to seek the protection of a strong male figure, either as a lover

or a personal protector, in order to avoid prison gang rapes and other forms of exploitation or coercion. The *Hustler* article mentioned that I had two personal protectors, Shannon Landry and Dale Washington. In my case, the protection they gave came out of respect and friendship—no fees were required.

Some of the girls can choose their man, unless she is chosen by the leader of a gang or group that has control of their surroundings. I have seen many girls check themselves into protective custody to avoid this type of marriage, which is, more often than not, abusive. Celibacy is only possible in protective custody, in those kinds of situations.

Inside my Christian circle, I am protected by saints and the Word, and as such, I have been delivered from the desires of the flesh. I no longer need the arms of another to make me feel whole or loved. I now know that when I do give my mind, my body and my hand in love, it will also be in marriage—a real marriage—outside of prison, and it will be to a man that truly loves and believes in God, himself and then, in me.

I became involved in a Prayer Circle that meets outside every Saturday afternoon, during recreation time. It has grown bigger and more powerful every week, and I started creating weekly flyers inviting others to join.

I am also now a free lance writer for "The Highly Flavored Ministry Newsletter." My latest contribution is a five part series entitled "And When I Raise". It's free for the asking, and prisoners can subscribe by writing to:

Highly Flavored Ministry  
PO Box 4418  
Gary, IN 46404-4418

You can also place yourself and your family and friends on the "HFM Prayer List." The newsletter is published quarterly, and back issues are available upon request.

Also, I am laying the foundation for a ministry I call "Nothing But The Truth", which will be geared toward, but not limited to, transsexual, gay and lesbian Christians in and out of prison. For more information about my vision for the NBTT Ministry, you may contact me at:

Valjean Royal  
PO Box 30 #3493  
Pendleton, IN 46064

#### Volunteers will be needed.

In closing, I would simply like to say that, when no one else seems to care, and you feel that life has been just one pitfall after another, give Jesus a try. Say a prayer, and just wash your mind and your spirit clear of all the despair by reading His Word. Truly, my sisters, I wish I could have known about God's love for me long ago. His love is real, so real that he gave His only Son that we might live and our spirits be free—of death, of prisons and of our sorrows.

I pray for all the sisters who write to the Journal, desperately reaching out for knowledge, understanding and support, as well as those sisters in suffering who offer their knowledge, understanding and support, because they want to help another lost soul find peace.

I wish that we could all join hands in a prayer circle and just turn our troubles over to God, because there, I know, we will find comfort and the strength to carry on. Until next time, be safe take care and may angels watch over you all.

#### **YOU ARE A WANTED PERSON**

*[I receive many requests for prisoner pen pals at the Journal. As an experiment, I decided to create a special section just for those requests, on a space available basis. Those wishing to be listed here must provide specific permission to do so, and if there are restrictions on your mail privileges, we need to know that too. In order to avoid duplication, if your name and address appears elsewhere, as in an article heading, generally it will not be included here. Ed.]*

**Ms. Shelli Wright #102077**  
**Kentucky Reformatory**  
**300 West Hwy. 146**  
**La Grange, KY 40032**

•  
**D. Gann #E-23852**  
**D2-222**  
**PO Box 7500**  
**Crescent City, CA 95532**

**Sarah J. Babcock #995087**  
**Stafford Creek Correction Center**  
**191 Constantine Way**  
**IMU FNCO2**  
**Aberdeen, WA 98520**

I have received the Spring 2002 edition, which I found just as enjoyable as the previous one. You are all doing a great job.

Thanks for printing my letter, and thanks for passing my address on to Roni Soubrette. By the way, they have moved me again, so please take note of my new address. [See above. Ed] They said this time, I will stay put for a while.

I wrote to the Free Prison Book Programs that you listed in the newsletter. So far, I have not gotten any replies. However, my query to Books Through Bars, PO Box 452, Bloomington, IN 47402, was returned to me as undeliverable. Evidently, the address is incorrect or they are out of business.

Before I forget, the Lutherans offer Bibles, self-study Bible materials, and "The Living Water" devotional letter free for the asking. Write to:

Special Ministries  
 PO Box 452  
 New Ulm, MN 56703

I am happy to report that, with one or two exceptions, the staff here at Stafford Creek Correction Center, where I was recently transferred, are trying to drop the male pronouns when addressing me. A most professional concept on their part.

They don't use Sarah, my legal name, yet, but there is hope that someday they will. And I received a letter from Elizabeth Anderson, Ph.D., who works in the Health Services Administration office of Correctional Operations in Olympia, in which she also included Sarah, as an addendum to my male name, when she wrote to me. Another small but significant step forward for this state's DOC that was appreciated.

I will send information to the ACLU's Prison Rape Project, as Donna suggested, but in my opinion, the ACLU is not what it once was, prior to when they began accepting federal funding. Personally, I don't have much faith in

them. That said, I would love to be proven wrong this time and see them actually do something about the high rate of prison rapes. Even if it is only a high profile educational program aimed at the various prison systems' administrators and the public in general.

I agree with what Donna wrote about stopping sexual predators. [See *Rhodes v. Chapman* 452 U.S.337, 349, 101 S. Ct. 2392, 2400, 69 L.Ed.2d 59 (1981) @ 2399]—Being violently assaulted in prison is simply not "part of the penalty that criminal offenders pay for their offenses against society." As you can see, the United States supreme Court agrees with Donna too.

It were possible to correspond with other inmates, I would surely drop "Formerly Kitty" more than a few lines of support. She is 100% right. None of the prisons anywhere employ real health care professionals. They usually get the ones who can't make it in private practice or anywhere else, and their biases and their incompetence are revealed by their disregard for their patient. By and large, they are people who lack any professional integrity, although I know of some exceptions. The latter usually don't last long, because they won't toe the line for the DOC.

As an illustration of what we usually end up with, let me share with you a couple of my experiences.

After my arrival at the Washington Corrections Center, I was being housed in the Close Observation Unit, because of my gender dysphoria. I was being interviewed by the institution's unlicensed, unqualified "psychologist." I presented to him some previous medical records of mine from doctors who had been treating me before my incarceration, documenting that I was a transsexual. I answered all of his questions and explained my gender identity issues for him. Finally, the "doctor" asked me if I had a "vagina!" Apparently, he was confused about, or didn't know, the differences between transsexualism and being a hermaphrodite!

The look on my face must have been one of total befuddlement. I replied, "You have not been listening. If you had, you would know that I do not have a vagina. The problem is mine is prolapsed." [To perhaps belabor the obvi-

ous, Sarah's latter flippant comment was more suggestive of the surgical procedure used in SRS to create an artificial vagina than it was of the real problem, which presumably is the conflict arising from the fact that she identifies as a female, but her anatomy is that of a male. Ed.] The encounter ended. He wrote that I was uncooperative.

The second example occurred when I was subsequently transferred to Walla Walla State Penitentiary. Upon my arrival, I was escorted into a room with several men in it. I later discovered that they were the institution's unqualified, unlicensed mental health counselors and social workers. I was placed on a high stool, alone in front of them. A tall and slender man stood up and gave me a look that said, "I got you now."

I was scared, not having a clue what they were going to do to me or why I was there. The tall man asked me—and I will never forget it—"If you were in a public place, and you were free, what kind of underwear would you be wearing and which public restroom would you use?"

I thought, "What kind of questions are these?" Then out loud, I responded, "Couldn't you see me standing at the urinal in a men's room with my skirt lifted over my head trying to pee?" Then I stated, "My panties are none of your business."

I was immediately escorted out of the room, and I still don't understand the question or what this was all about.

I think these two incidents prove that when my incarceration began, I at least kept my sense of humor, but, in my mind, it also reflects the lack of professionalism that is typical in a prison environment.

On another matter, I have been hearing that all across the country prisons have been closing down their law libraries. If so, this is something that really concerns me.

I have done considerable research on existing case law as it relates to transgendered prisoners and transgender rights in general. For the benefit of our other readers, the following is the latest update on my case citations. I realize that some have been previously listed in

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the newsletter, but some might find it useful. The first two are recent finds.

Lamb v. Maschner 633 F. Supp. 351 (D. Kan. 1986) In this case, an inmate sought a transfer to a women's facility, cosmetics and women's clothes, as well as hormone therapy and SRS. The inmate lost.

Crosby v. Reynolds 763 F. Supp. 666 (D. Me. 1991) This case concerns inmate privacy. Women prisoners sued because they were forced to share accommodations with a 6' 1" male-to-female pre-operative transsexual. The genetic females won—sort of. The ruling was that MTF's do not have a right to be housed with women, as it violates the women's constitutional rights to privacy. I agree.

[The following is *complete list of the other transgender law case citations provided by Ms. Babcock. Those with \*asterisks next to them are other case citations provided by other subscribers in previous issues. I alphabetized the list for ease of reference. Ed.]*

#### Other Transgender Law Case Citations

Cuoco v. Moritsugu No. 98-2954 (2nd Cir. 1999)

\*Cuoco v. Moritsugu et al. 222 (F. 3d 99

2000) Lexus 18376

DeTore v. Local 245 of Jersey City Employee Union 615 F.2d 920 (3rd Cir 1980)

Devilla v. Schriver No. 00.177 (2nd Cir. 2001)

\*Doe v. Delie C.A.3. (Pa.) 2001 2001WL817680

Doe v. McConn 489 F. Supp. 76 (S.D. Tex 1980)

Doe v. Minnesota Dept. of Public Welfare 257 N.W. 2d 816,819 (Minn. 1997)

Doe v. Reno 172 F.3d 62 (10th Cir. 1999)

Farmer v. Brennan, 511 U.S. 825, 835, 114 S.Ct. 1970, 128 L.Ed.2d 811 (1994)

Farmer v. Carlson 685 F.Supp. 1335 (M.D.Pa. 1988)

Farmer v. Haas 927 F.2d 1607 (7th Cir. 1991)

Farmer v. Haas 990 F.2d 319 (7th Cir. 1993)

Farmer v. Hawk 991 F. Supp. 19 (D.C. 1998)

Farmer v. Moritsugu 163 F.2d 610 (??Cir. 1998)

Farmer v. Perrill 275 F.3d 958 [C.A. 10. (Colo.) 2001]

Geisler v. Petrocelli 616 F.2d 636 (2nd Cir. 1980)

Hathaway v. Coughlin 99 F.3d . 550, 553 (2d Cir.1996)

Holloway v. Anderson 566 F.2d. 659 (9th Cir. 1977)

Home v. Coughlin 172 F.3d. 125 (6th Cir. 1994)

\*Jeffers v. Gomez C.A.9 (Cal.) 2001 2000WL33535714

John Doe v. Burton 85 F.3d. 635 (9th Cir. 1996) relates to sex offender privacy

Jones v. Flannigan 949 F.2d. 398 (7th Cir. 1991)

\*Long v. Nix (S.D. Iowa 1995)

\*Maggert v. Hanks 131 F.3d 670 (7th Cir. 1997)

Meriwether v. Faulkner 821 F.2d 408, 413 (7th Cir.1987)

\*Meriwether v. Faulkner 821 F.2d 408, cert. Denied, 484 U.S. 935 (7th Cir. 1987)

\*Phillips v. Michigan Dept. of Corrections 731 F. Supp. 792 (W.D. Mich S.D. 1990)

Phillips v. Michigan Dept. of Corrections affirmed without opinion 932 F.2d. (6th Cir. 1991)

Pinneke v. Preisser 623 F.2d 549 (8th Cir. 1980)

Powell V. Schriver 175 F.3d. 107 (2nd Cir. 1999)

Rush v. Parham 444 F. Supp. 383 (N.D. Ga. 1980)

Schwenk v. Hartford 204F.3d. 1187 (9th Cir. 2000)

Supre v. Ricketts 792 F.2d 958 (10th Cir. 1986)

Summers v. Budget Marketing Inc. 667 F.2d. 746 (8th Cir. 1982)

Ulane v. Eastern Airlines, INC. 724 F.2d. 1081 (7th Cir. 1982)

\*US v. Mendoza C.A.9. (Cal.) 2001 262 F.3d. 957

White v. Farrier 849 F.2d. 322 (8th Cir. 1988)

Wood v. Housewright 900 F.2d 1332, 1334 (9th Cir. 1990)

## Interpreting Legal Citations

Before you can begin finding cases, you need to be able to interpret legal citations. When reading about a case, you will see a reference along the lines of:

*Alamo Land & Cattle Co. v. Arizona*, 428 US 295 (1976)

and will want to find the case. Legal citations are always given in the form:

**case name, volume number case reporter abbreviation page number (year)**

Therefore *Alamo Land & Cattle Co. v. Arizona*, 428 US 295 (1976) refers to a particular case, *Alamo Land & Cattle Co v. Arizona*, the text of which begins on page 295 of volume 428 in the *United States Reports*. Journal citations are given the same way, such as:

Malken, Jeffrey, "Stolen Photographs: Personality, Publicity, and Privacy", 75 Tex.L.Rev. 779 (1997)

The case name is pretty self-evident. The tricky part is translating the case reporter abbreviations. The most common abbreviations are:

US	United States Reports	The official reporter for United States Supreme Court cases.
SCt	Supreme Court Reporter	An unofficial reporter for United States Supreme Court cases.
L.Ed.	Lawyers' Edition, United States Supreme Court Reports	Another unofficial reporter for United States Supreme Court cases.
F.2d or F.3d	Federal Reporter, 2nd or 3rd Series	The reporter for the United States Circuit Courts of Appeal.
F.Supp	Federal Supplement	The reporter for the United States District Courts opinions.
S.W.2d	Southwestern Reporter, 2nd Series	The reporter for the highest courts in selected states, including Texas.

If you have trouble interpreting a reporter abbreviation, you should check: *Dictionary of legal abbreviations used in American law books* compiled by Doris M. Bieger. 2nd ed. Buffalo, NY : W.S. Hein, 1985. KF246.B46 1985 Reference