



MIDWEST RAINBOW NEWS



NOVEMBER 2023

VOL. 3 ISSUE 11

"Love is profoundly political. Our deepest revolution will come when we understand this truth."

-bell hooks

HOUSEKEEPING

DISCLAIMER

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By sending submissions to the Midwest Rainbow News, you are agreeing to have your submission published. We may edit submissions to fit our anti-oppression values and/or our own editing guidelines.

Missing your copy?

Although things seem to be improving in terms of uniform delivery of the newsletter, please reach out if you do not receive your copy for more than one month in a row. Thank you!

Midwest Rainbow News
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MAMA SAYS

Here it is November already, many having seen the first frost of the year and Christmas close enough for some people to start putting together their wish list. November is also the time for Thanksgiving, looking backwards at time past, and being thankful for those blessings we have received.

November is a time when we remember those we have lost. As mentioned in last month's issue, this issue is dedicated to those we have lost. I would ask that, on November 20th (Transgender Day of Remembrance), each of us say the names of those lost, especially those lost to violence or suicide.

I have always tried to be transparent in what is going on with me, especially as it affects all of you. I saw the Doctor yesterday (10-25-23) for the results of my CAT Scan. Apparently, when they did a recent ultrasound they detected an abnormality on my liver, so a Cat scan was ordered. The scan revealed a small growth on my liver that may or may not be something to be concerned about. She ordered a lab test and, when the results from that come back, they may send me for a biopsy. Let's hope for the best!

Soon we will be under a new administration, Ms. Precythe will be gone in December. I wish I could tell you this is a good change, but only time will tell. We know all too well how bad things can get, so let's all send positive thoughts and energies towards Jefferson City and hope the Governor makes an intelligent choice to replace both the director and deputy director of the department of corrections.

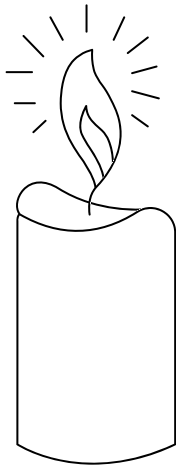
With a Mother's Love,
Patricia



ON TRANS DAY OF REMEMBRANCE

What up LGBTQ is taking over the world! This is Princess Katrina Magnolia reporting live that I've finally started my first pill of HRT. It has been a long hard road ladies, but my wifie slash twin flame Cocalena helped me get to where I am at in my life that's the OG bitch y'all. I miss you and I love you boo.

November 20 is Trans Day of Remembrance. Let's start it off with a moment of silence for our trans sister that got put to rest before her time this year in Missouri. Now with that said, Do we really need to name names? Because no matter what, we are always going to forget a name here and a name there. So why don't we just say every transgender person, big and small, young or old, everyone made a difference in someone's life. So why make others more important than the underdogs? So take November 20 as a day of reflection of yourself to see what your self is doing to honor our trans sisters and trans brothers. Are we doing enough to keep the ball rolling to make the world accept us for who we are? If we are not doing anything, then they all died in vain. Well, I love you and I miss you all!



IN MEMORIAM

Mona - murdered while living free in Kansas City
Lisa Web - murdered in JCCC
Vanna Vandiver - suicide JCCC
Amber McLaughin - murdered (state execution)

THE PRISON JOURNALISM PROJECT

The Prison Journalism Project is a great place for any prisoner to express their views while working to establish themselves as a credible writer and journalist. Many first time authors have been published on the Prison Journalism website. It only takes imagination and willingness to write your story. It is 100% free, costs you only time and dedication. Ask about their writing program and upcoming correspondence-based classes. For more information on how to get started, contact them at:

*Prison Journalism Project
2093 Philadelphia Pike #1054
Claymont, DE 19703*

WRITE FOR US!

We are actively seeking material from our readers to publish in future issues. We will no longer publish messages from one reader to another.

We are looking for:

- Articles with accurate information about relevant policies, legal developments, and current affairs (cite your sources!)
- Tips, life-hacks, and how-to articles that our readers would find useful
- Media recommendations — books, authors, podcasts, tv, movies etc. Preference given to free things. Write a little bit about why you're recommending it and/or what you got from it.
- Personal essays on topics relevant to our community, including but not limited to: mental health, personal growth, what sucks about being LGBTQ in prison, what's cool about being LGBTQ in prison, pride, shame, self-acceptance, friendship, liberation from oppression, dealing with difficult family relationships, etc.
- Good news — if you have something to celebrate!
- Reports from your camp on conditions for LGBTQ prisoners
- Responses — If you have something constructive to add to a particular conversation, you can write a response to a previously published piece

SEND SUBMISSIONS TO OUR PO BOX OR THE BLACK-PINK GAZETTE TABLET CONTACT

IF YOU'RE A NEW SUBSCRIBER AND DON'T HAVE THE CONTACT ON YOUR TABLET YET, PLEASE BE PATIENT. IF YOU'RE STILL MISSING THE CONTACT AFTER A COUPLE WEEKS, WRITE TO OUR PO BOX.



ON TRANS DAY OF REMEMBRANCE

By L'errét Jazelle Ailith for Autostraddle

I am L'errét Jazelle Ailith. I am Lourdes Ashley Hunter. I am Janet Mock. I am Laverne Cox. I am Isis King. I am CeCe McDonald. I am Islan Nettles. I am Mia Henderson. I am Shelley Hilliard. I am Brittany Stergis. I am Tiffany Edwards. I am Gizzy Fowler. I am Marsha P. Johnson. I am every black trans woman that has had to live her life fighting the systems and people around her that seek to eradicate her existence. I am the woman that you have beaten, taunted, harassed, fired, and shamed. I live authentically in my truth, blazing a fiery path behind me that actively melts away the icy, exclusionary aura of the world that I must navigate. My hands are outstretched and am grasping every single one of my sisters that the TDOR lists are trying to engulf. I am them. They are us. We stand in solidarity to redefine our own realities and to rebuild our community that was broken apart at the hands of white supremacy and colonialism. We stand against the entrapment of the boxes of gender normativity and rebuke those who seek to place invisible cloaks across our claimed identities and articulated narratives. We refuse to operate in ways to fit systems and institutions that are inherently built to keep us out or seek to subjugate us. We are the revolution. We are stronger than the commodified victim narrative that has been forced onto our lived experiences. We are greater than the pity and sensationalization of all the TDOR events around the nation.

I want to take a moment to honor all of my sisters who have been murdered for living in their truths. If it weren't for them dying for what they believe in and dying for each and every other sister that walks this Earth, I wouldn't be here owning my voice. I wouldn't be able to stand strong and unwavering proclaiming and owning my transness, blackness, queerness – hell, my penis! – if it weren't for those Goddesses who owned those things and never let go. I wouldn't have been inspired to love this skin I'm in if it weren't for their legacies. But I also uplift the sisters by my side who live and love and teach me each and every day to never apologize for my authenticity. While we are all at our TDOR events or celebrating trans lives throughout the week, let's begin to push our analyses a bit further. Let's begin to engage in dialogue that acknowledges intersectional identities.

I implore you to sit back and ask yourself how you contribute to the violence and injustice against trans women of color. How do you reinforce the marginalization and ostracism of myself and my sisters? It's all fine that we become aware of our lives but we need more than for you to finally see that we are walking this Earth. We need you to hear us. We need you to sit quietly, take notes, and begin to conceptualize what a restructured system that is void of misogynist, racist, ableist, etc oppression would look like. It's not enough to read the names of my sisters killed off by the normative nature of this capitalistic system. Moments of silence are not enough. Calling us courageous is not enough. Having one or two trans friends is not enough. We need to begin to develop more complex analysis of the world in which we live. We need to rebuke assimilationism. It is an imperative to eradicate the prison industrial complex and the criminalization of sex work in all forms. I implore you to begin to question what has been engrained in you since birth. Own yourself and you can begin to see the truth.

I envision a period where being a black trans woman in all her glory is not deemed "courageous" or "revolutionary." It is a ridiculous notion to think that one being themselves is revolutionary. I want to be able to walk to McDonald's at 9:00 at night and not have to worry about being killed by transphobic bystanders, sexually molested by misogynistic jerks, or both of those things being perpetuated by police officers. I want to see my sisters out of jail cells. I want to see my sisters with jobs. I want to see them happy. I want to see black trans brilliance everywhere and until that day comes, we will not stop. The movement will always continue. Our voices will forever be the loudest. We will always walk with the fervor and passion that our fore sisters embodied. We are the revolution. We are Goddesses. Our lives matter. I am the Trans Women of Color Collective. Our voices slay.



HISTORY OF TDoR

November 20, 1999 marks the first Transgender Day of Remembrance, honoring the victims of transphobic violence. Now an annual observance, the first TDoR is a vigil commemorating Rita Hester, a 34-year-old African American trans woman murdered in Boston the previous year.

Hester had been openly trans for nearly her whole life and was well-known in the Boston neighborhood of Allston. She and her friends were all too familiar with violence against trans people—just a few months before her death, Hester had responded to a Boston paper's question about the murder of another Black transgender woman, Chanelle Pickett, saying "I'm afraid of what will happen if [the perpetrator] gets off lightly."

On November 28, 1998, Hester was stabbed to death in her apartment, apparently by someone whom she had invited in. As her friends and family grieved, many of them found the media's coverage of the murder insulting to Hester and the trans community. Mainstream media covering the tragedy misgendered and deadnamed Hester, taking their cue from the police report. For Hester's loved ones, these added insults to an already horrific loss underscored the need for respectful remembrances of trans people, especially those who had been victims of violence.

A year after Hester's death, the first Transgender Day of Remembrance was observed, thanks largely to the efforts of transgender activist Gwendolyn Ann Smith. It is now observed each year on November 20, the anniversary of Pickett's murder. The observance is not official in the United States, but President Joe Biden became the first president to issue a statement on TDoR in 2021. Though trans visibility has increased greatly since Hester's death, gender non-conforming people are still murdered at a rate far higher than the national average, and the majority of victims are Black trans women. Even though violence against trans people is understood to be vastly underreported, 2021 was reported to be the deadliest year on record for trans and gender non-conforming people, with more than 50 murders. The Human Rights Campaign notes that in nearly half of cases, the police or media misgendered the victim.



SOME ENCOURAGEMENT

Hello to all my brothers and sisters!!! My name is Avery Walker, some may know me as Vanessa. I go by Avery now!!!! I want to tell you all something. Know your worth, and know you are worthy of all you desire. I love all of you, truly I do. I know that I don't know you, but that does not matter! You are human, and you deserve to be happy, you deserve love! I know that we are all in prison, and for almost all of us, it's by our own doing...STOP BEATING YOURSELF UP. You did what you did, and you can't change that, you know what you can change though? What you do from this moment forward, so change for the better!!!

To all those struggling with addiction, you are not a bad person, seek help, the drugs are a means to forget the real problem. The fact that you are unhappy, and are suppressing emotions that you need to process in order to grow!!! You can do it, I have faith in you, I did it and so can you. To those who are dealing with problems in your relationship(s), Do they love you for who you truly are? Do they elevate you, make you a better person as a whole? If not, break away!!! Find the one who will accept you as you are, every blemish, and scar. Do not settle because you think it's all you're worth...NO, GET WHAT YOU WANT!!! WORK YOUR ASS OFF AND NEVER GIVE UP!!! WE ARE WARRIORS MY RAINBOW TRIBE, WE WILL NOT BREAK, AND WE WILL NOT STAY DOWN WHEN WE FALL!!! So, my family, don't give up and keep going...You got this!



ON OUR HEARTS AND MINDS



ST. LOUIS KMOV NEWS 4 INVESTIGATES AS TOLD BY AMBER WOLF

October 12 I caught most of St. Louis KMOV News 4 Investigates and they were talking about an investigation into Ms. Reed, the alleged whistleblower for the Washington University Pediatric Transgender Clinic. Her affidavit helped Missouri Legislators to pass the transgender youth treatment bans. It turns out she lied and misled people in her statements. She claims one girl became very sick from her puberty blockers, but what she hid was the girl was actually sick from COVID19. Reed also claimed Missouri children were obtaining hormone treatment without parental consent. One St. Louis father said, "The treatment is about \$30 grand. What child carries that type of money?" KMOV reached out to Attorney General Andrew Bailey for questions, his office said Bailey cannot comment due the investigation of this matter. KMOV showed a video of Senator Josh Hawley previously in which he praised Reed for being a whistleblower, but now he says he will launch his own investigation.

What happens next? I have no clue, but I will keep following KMOV. "News 4 watching out for you."



ABOUT LOVE

Well let me start off by saying if you say you love someone this means always be up front with him or her! Because not doing that may make that person be distance from you! But if you Truly Love that special person, never give up on him or her! Because no matter what it may be, like deep into drug use, you being there through it all can help them improve and kick that addiction. Don't tear them down because it's not fully their fault! Be that inspiration and let them know you are there and love them and are there to help them ease away from that situation! Sisters and brothers if you love that special someone, NEVER GIVE UP ON THEM EVER. But it does have to be a 50/50 relationship like when you are married—through sickness and health til death do us apart! I'm ridin' because that's what kind of man I am for all my friends and loved ones! Remember if you love someone and they are using, never give up on them ever because it could have been you using and would you like someone to stand by your side?!. Well, sisters and brothers, I love you all very much! Remember these words don't give up on that special person in their time of need when they are at their lowest state of mind!

Mylowe

DREAMY

I've always known I was a woman internally. However, I wasn't socially acceptable. So I adapted to my physical form rather than inward. I hid it from everyone except the sexual partners I had. It is so easy for me to be me at the camp I'm at now. But at my last I was still secretive. I'm open about how I feel and who I am. I correct the staff when they use male pronouns and some of them are traditional in their beliefs but respect my choice to be called ma'am, Mrs., she, etcetera. I hope to get approved for my gender affirming items this month. When I see the committee I'm getting my ID picture changed since I look nothing like it anymore. Lol. I love seeing the unity in this paper. Please continue to lift one of one another up. Even if you don't see eye to eye with a sister or brother always still have their back. Because the whole DoC is practically against us. So we must stick together. I will continue to fight for HRT.

Dreamy



ON OUR HEARTS AND MINDS



WHO AM I?

Who Am I? Is a question I've been asked a million times. My answer is usually always I am who I am! Or if anybody asks you who I am tell em I'm a child of God. Now I can add to that mix that I am a proud trans woman. How would you answer that question? Who are you? When you answer, speak without hesitation! Know exactly who you are, be glad that you are who you are. Know that the greatest gift we can give ourselves is the gift of knowing who we are! Never conform to suit others, there are too many counterfeiters around you and they only want to mislead and break your souls. Don't conform to the world around you, let the world around you conform around you. You are somebody and your lives matter! We can be whatever we want to be, there are no more limits on our lives, we are being guided by a limitless God/creator who wants us to shine.

Never give up on your dreams, of being who or whatever you wanna be, work hard and fight until you win. Success is the only option, Losing is never an option we live under the banner of victory so never accept defeat. No matter what limitations this world puts on you, push harder. God is not fazed by our human limitations and we must do our best and let him/her do the rest. God will help us excel, trust in yourselves and lean on your faith.

I trusted God to advocate on my behalf to get HRT. I got pushed around for four years, then after being approved this May, almost lost my chance because hateful lawmakers wrote laws to restrict gender affirming care, but with the help of God I got just what I wanted. I am not yet perfected but I started the process. It's my dream to be the best version of me I can be and I'm chasing it as it chases me. I am overwhelmed by the grace of God as I transform from the old me into a beautiful butterfly.

I received a tremendous gift and I want to share it with the world. If Missouri dept of confusions or other bad actors are holding you and your medical care hostage, keep pushing for your rights and don't give up. Keep pressing them, don't let them win remember the battle is not yours its the Lords and therefore you will come out victorious. He/She made us in their own image so they know what we need! It's yours and you need it now, turn your existence into your happy place, your little slice of heaven or sweet spot, a place where you can be all that you can be.

Summer Breeze

ON THE SUBSCRIPTION POLICY

Missouri DOC's new subscription policy was created to take care of a nonexistent problem that the previous policy was already accomplishing. However, the new policy is in clear violation of the Missouri case of Turner v. Safly that was settled by the United States Supreme Court. The case involved Missouri inmates taking the DOC to court over restrictive Mail Policy. The Supreme Court came up with the Turner Test which is a standard that all state and federal prisons must follow.

The Turner test has four parts to it and if a policy fails to meet a part of the Turner test then it is deemed unconstitutional. One requirement requires an alternative that is as least restrictive as possible. The new subscription policy places an undue burden on inmates that are financially strapped.

Old policy:

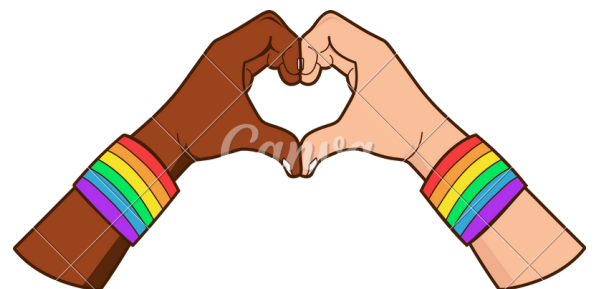
Brother sends money to the Wall Street Journal for a year subscription. The Wall Street Journal sends the paper to me, as policy prevented my brother from sending me the paper.

New policy-

I send money to the Wall Street Journal for a year subscription. The Wall Street Journal sends the paper to me. Only difference is my brother can afford a year subscription, I cannot.

DOC claims the money can be sent to me, but for 7 years I owed the DOC money and I was not allowed to have more than \$5 per month and a year subscription to the Wall Street Journal is much, much higher.

Amber Wolf





**Reach us at:
Midwest Rainbow News
PO Box 81624
Pittsburgh, PA 15217**

LEGAL/ADVOCACY

NEWSLETTER

RESEARCH

Lambda Legal
C/O Help Desk
4221 Wilshire Blvd
Los Angeles, CA 90010

Missouri - Cure
P.O. Box 411794
Kansas City, Mo 64141
Chair Person: Kathy Franklin

Liberation Lit (inquire for free books)
P.O. Box 45071
Kansas City, MO 64171

ACLU
906 Olive St., Suite 1130
St. Louis, Mo. 63101

LAGAI (Ultraviolet)
3543 18th St #26
San Francisco, CA 94110

Library of Congress
101 Independence Ave. S.E.
Washington, DC 20540-4660

Missouri Protection and Advocacy Services
925 S. Country Club Dr.
Jeff City, Mo. 66109-4510

Black and Pink
6223 Maple St., #4600
Omaha NE 68104

Centurion
1400 Edgewood Drive
Jefferson City, Mo. 63109

Transgender Law Center
P.O. Box 70976
Oakland, CA 94612

Prison Health News
4722 Baltimore Avenue
Philadelphia, PA 19143



National Center for Transgender Equality
1032 15th St NW
Suite # 199
Washington, D.C. 20005

Slingshot (quarterly radical newspaper)
3124 Shattuck Avenue
Berkeley, CA 94705



GLAAD
18 Tremont St Suite # 950
Boston, MA 02108

Prisoner Express (twice a year)
Prisoner Express
PO Box #6556
Ithaca, NY 14851



TGI Justice Project
370 Turk St # 370
San Francisco, CA 94102

LEGAL/ADVOCACY



Southern Poverty Law Center
400 Washington Ave.
Montgomery, AL. 36104

The Midwest Innocence Project
3619 Broadway Blvd., Suite 2
Kansas City, MO 64111



MacArthur Justice Center
906 Olive Street, Suite 420
St. Louis, MO 63101

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