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Stark Raven Digest: July 6, 2008  
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The Stark Raven Media Collective takes a critical look at prisons and issues of criminalization.

Podcast, News Highlights, More Info: <http://www.prisonjustice.ca>
To join our email list & receive this monthly digest or to be removed from the list, email [starkraven\(at\)prisonjustice\(dot\)ca](mailto:starkraven(at)prisonjustice(dot)ca)

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The below email contains:  
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== c u r r e n t i s s u e s ==

- a) Upcoming Radio Programs
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- e) More Info on Stark Raven
- f) Support Stark Raven: Become a Member of Co-op Radio

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Upcoming Stark Raven Radio Programs  
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*Mon July 7th, 7-8 pm: RADIO FREQUENCY IDENTIFICATION
These little chips can be implanted into you and you can be tracked. Find out about the technology and the implications for privacy and social control. Will prisoner's be test subjects? Interview with Richard Rosenberg from the BC Freedom of Information and Privacy Association and the BCCLA.

***Mon July 14th, 7-8pm: GANGS: THE PROBLEM WITH THE LAW ENFORCEMENT APPROACH**

Sometimes presented as the only solution, using police, prisons and punishment to deal with gangs is ineffective. The US-based Justice Policy Institute makes this argument in a recent report. Interview with Nastassia Walsh from the Institute.

***Mon July 21st, 7-8 pm: NATIVE SPIRITUAL HEALING BEHIND BARS**
Prince George singer songwriter Marcel Gagnon will talk about native spiritual healing inside BC's northern prisons. [tentative]

***Mon Aug 3rd, 7-8 pm: "JOE CONVICT" FROM SEGREGATION**
Hear an interview with "Joe Convict", a prisoner who has been in segregation for several months in an Ontario prison. "Joe" talks of his struggle with the prison authorities and his fight for human rights behind bars.

***Mon Aug 10th & 17th, 7-8 pm: VANCOUVER PRISON JUSTICE DAY RALLY**
Hear highlights from the August 10th rally. Prison Justice Day is a day to remember those who have died behind bars.

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Recent Stark Raven Audio Interviews  
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Links to download and listen to recent interviews:
(always available at <http://www.prisonjustice.ca>)

== June 17th: GUANTANAMO PRISONERS WIN COURT CASE ==
The US Supreme Court has made a landmark ruling on the right of Guantanamo prisoners to challenge their detention in US federal Courts. Hear an interview with Vince Warren, Center For Constitutional Rights.
http://www.democracynow.org/2008/6/13/rebuking_bush_admin_justices_rule_gitmo

== June 10th: GIRLS IN PRISON: RISK ASSESSMENTS, CONTROL AND MARGINALIZATION

Risk assessment approaches being used to manage prisoners are framed as objective, but in reality these approaches ignore systemic issues such as colonization and further isolate marginalized girls. Interview with Christie Barron, author of Giving Youth a Voice: Rethinking Adolescent Violence, studied these issues in the Saskatchewan youth justice system.

<http://www.rabble.ca/rpn/episode.shtml?x=73192>

== June 3rd THE STRUGGLE AGAINST TORTURE IN THE U.S.==

*Eric Fair, former contract interrogator in US-run prisons in Iraq.

<http://talknationradio.com/?p=146>

*Psychologist Stephen Soldz on Torture and the American Psychological Association. <http://talknationradio.com/?p=145>

*Margaret Satterwaite, human rights lawyer, on secret detention and extraordinary rendition. <http://lawanddisorder.org/2008/05/>

== May 19th: WRITING BY WOMEN IN PRISON ==

Interview with Books Beyond Bars, about Words Without Walls: Writing And Art By Women In Prison In Nova Scotia. Featuring women reading pieces from the book. <http://www.rabble.ca/rpn/episode.shtml?x=72832>

== May 12th: WELFARE RATES AND CRIME PREVENTION ==

Interview with Seth Klein on the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives Report Living on Welfare in BC: Experiences of Longer-Term “Expected to Work” Recipients.

<http://www.rabble.ca/rpn/episode.shtml?x=72535>

== May 5th: WOMEN AND PRISON -- A SITE FOR RESISTANCE ==

Interview with the creators of a new website resource on women in prison.

<http://www.womenandprison.org>.

<http://www.rabble.ca/rpn/episode.shtml?x=72998>

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Recent Prison News

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1) WOMEN LOSE COURT CHALLENGE TO KEEP MINIMUM-SECURITY PRISON

2) SMOKING BAN HITS FEDERAL PRISONS

3) ACTIVISTS LAUNCH LAWSUIT TO STOP CALIFORNIA PRISON EXPANSION

1) WOMEN LOSE COURT CHALLENGE TO KEEP MINIMUM-SECURITY PRISON

MAY 12, 2008

Those being held in Canada's only minimum-security prison for women have lost their court challenge to keep the jail open.

Last year the Correctional Service of Canada announced it was going to close the Isabel McNeill House in Kingston, Ontario. They say it is too expensive to operate.

The women argue that the closure violates their constitutional rights. In a multi-level prison they would be treated essentially the same as prisoners classified as medium security.

At the regional women's prisons they would be confined behind razor wire fences and would be under the gaze of surveillance cameras.

Isabel McNeill House has no perimeter security nor cameras and the women are free to move throughout the house.

Part of the reason the Correctional Service of Canada wants to close the jail is because it is underused.

It has space for 10 women but has held six, on average, in recent years.

Correction claims it can't get more women to go there, but the lawyer representing the women argues that it is the prison system that sets the criteria for admission and controls the process.

There are 13 stand-alone men's prisons across the country.

In a report released in 2004, the Canadian Human Rights Commission concluded "women prisoners continue to face systemic human rights problems in the federal correctional system."

The four women are appealing the ruling.

Source Articles:

<http://www.thewhig.com/ArticleDisplay.aspx?e=1021162&auth=Rob+Tripp>
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2) SMOKING BAN HITS FEDERAL PRISONS

MAY 15, 2008

A total smoking ban at all federal prisons is currently being phased in.

Maximum-security prisons went smoke free last week. Medium and minimum security prisons will be phased in over the next month.

An indoor smoking ban has been in place Federal prisons for almost two years.

The new rules prevent prisoners, visitors and staff from smoking anywhere on prison property including outside.

The correctional Service of Canada argues that full ban is necessary because of health issues and because of problems enforcing the indoor ban.

All provinces, except Quebec, have full smoking bans in place.

Earlier this year, the Quebec government was forced to reverse a full smoking ban in its prisons after a riot at one of the provincial jails.

Nearly 3/4 of all prisoners are smokers. This leaves 9000 smokers in the system with nowhere to light up.

Ex-prisoner Glenn Flett is concerned the ban may create a "desperate situation" inside federal prisons.

He says many of the lifers have been smoking for 25 years and are just not going to accept the new rules.

Flett is also concerned about the long-term impact of the ban. He says that tobacco is already used as currency in prison and that banning it will only increase its value in the prison black market.

Under the new restrictions, tobacco as well as lighters and matches will be considered contraband. The penalty for being caught ranges from a warning and loss of privileges to a fine or up to 30 days in segregation.

Prisoners have been receiving free educational materials as well as smoking cessation drugs and patches. But they will soon have to pay for these on their own.

The guards' union has been lobbying for a full smoking ban and praised the decision. The Union of Canadian Correctional Officers says that prisoners are still smoking inside and it is a working hazard.

Prisoner advocates are critical of the decision.

Barbara Hill, with the John Howard Society of Ontario, says that quitting smoking can be a lot more difficult for someone living in a prison than on the outside. Life on the inside is stressful and there is not a lot to preoccupy a person.

She pointed out that there has been a drastic cutback in meaningful activities and opportunities available to prisoners in that last 30 years. This has mostly been due to so called security concerns.

Source Articles:

<http://www.canada.com/edmontonjournal/news/story.html?id=d69f866f-85cd-4cc8-993a-d623326f7ado>

<http://www.fortsaskatchewanrecord.com/News/399410.html>

<http://www.canada.com/topics/news/national/story.html?id=56fc8326-a384-4233-bf66-b3231f568047&k=64594>

<http://winnipeg.sun.com/News/Manitoba/2008/05/07/5491371-sun.html>

<http://www.gravenhurstbanner.com/muskokanews/article/103314>

3) ACTIVISTS LAUNCH LAWSUIT TO STOP CALIFORNIA PRISON EXPANSION

MAY 15, 2008

A coalition of groups in California are filing a lawsuit to stop the state from borrowing \$12 billion to build 53,000 new prison beds. The expansion is considered the largest prison construction in US history. California has opened twenty-three new prisons in the past twenty-three years. Leading the opposition to the prison funding is the group Californians United for a Responsible Budget. They argue the money would be better spent on alternatives, housing and education.

Source Articles:

<http://www.democracynow.org/2008/5/6/headlines#13>

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How to Podcast Stark Raven  
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WHAT IS A PODCAST?

A podcast is a way of delivering a file to your computer automatically. The file is in mp3 file format, a compressed audio format. It allows you to then listen to the audio on your computer or put it on your mp3 player and listen to it on the go. This means you can listen to Stark Raven interviews at your convenience.

WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN DOWNLOADING A PODCAST AND SUBSCRIBING TO A PODCAST?

When you download a single podcast episode, that one file gets saved onto your computer or MP3 player. It is then up to you to play it, delete it or download another. When you subscribe to a podcast, the latest podcast episode is saved to your computer or MP3 player. Every time a new podcast episode of the program becomes available your podcasting software (Itunes, Ipodder etc) will automatically download it to your computer or MP3 player.

HOW TO SUBSCRIBE THE STARK RAVEN PODCAST:

copy this URL to your podcast receiver
<http://www.rabble.ca/rpn/rav/feed/>

In Itunes:

Under the Advanced menu, select Subscribe To Podcast...
It will ask you for the URL. Cut and paste the above address.
The Stark Raven podcast is registered in Itunes, meaning you can find it & subscribe if you go to the Itunes Podcast listings and search Stark Raven.

Every time you open Itunes or other Podcast program, it will check the rabble.ca website to see if a new Stark Raven posting has been put up. If there is one, it will automatically start downloading it. On the left menu, you will see Podcasts. That is where you will find the audio files. Just click on them once they have downloaded the file(s) and listen at your convenience. They can also be transferred to any MP3 player and listened to while away from the computer.

Itunes is a program you can use to listen to audio files.
You can download Itunes for free from:
<http://www.apple.com/itunes/download/>

Another podcast receiver is Ipodder. Download for free from:
<http://ipodder.sourceforge.net/download/index.php>

Juice is free, open source software for both Mac and PC. It's designed to manage podcasts and has a built-in directory with thousands of listed podcast feeds. <http://juicereceiver.sourceforge.net/index.php>

Once downloaded, the files can be played on your computers media player (Itunes, winamp, realplayer, windows media player etc)

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More Info on the Stark Raven Media Collective  
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The Stark Raven Media Collective takes a closer look at prisons and criminalization.

Stark Raven produces a radio program three times a month featuring in-depth interviews, news and analysis on issues related to prisons and criminalization, both locally and from around the world.

The radio program has been on the air for 20 years.

Topics we cover include: Canadian prison conditions, detention & the war on terror, alternatives to prison, criminalization of migration & poverty, privatization, security certificates, government policy, political prisoners, policing, the death penalty, the personal & political impacts of incarceration, prisoner's writings.

The collective's other activities include organizing community events and maintaining <http://www.prisonjustice.ca> - an online resource centre on Canadian prison issues.

Feel free to contact us if you have a story that you think we should cover on the show or have any feedback. Stark Raven is always seeking new volunteers and contributors for help with interviews, news research, musical contributions, web work and more.

The Stark Raven Media Collective is made up of volunteers:
Emily Aspinwall, Tiffany Chong, Louise Croft, Marge Lam

CONTACT:

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LIVE RADIO:

Mon 7-8pm, (1st-3rd Monday, Pacific Time. Vancouver Co-op Radio)
*102.7 FM in Vancouver
*<http://www.coopradio.org>
*Satellite: Starchoice #845
*Various cable frequencies around BC

NEWS, PODCASTS:

<http://www.prisonjustice.ca>

Join our monthly email digest, featuring links to audio & show podcast, recent news and upcoming show highlights. To join, email us!

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## Support Stark Raven: Become a Member of Co-op Radio

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Support broadcast space for programs such as Stark Raven. Become a Member of Co-op Radio and help keep independent media alive!

Vancouver Co-operative Radio, CFRO, 102.7FM is a non-commercial, co-operatively-owned, listener-supported, community radio station. Located in the heart of Vancouver's Downtown Eastside, Co-op Radio strives to provide a space for under-represented and marginalized communities. Support Stark Raven as we cut through the mainstream crime sensationalism with in-depth interviews, news and analysis on the role of prisons in our society and consequences of criminalizing affected communities.

Memberships start at \$25/year. For more details on becoming a member of Co-op Radio check out: <http://www.coopradio.org/member/index.html> or just email us at Stark Raven, starkraven (at) prisonjustice (dot) ca, and we can hook you up as a member.