

## AZANDE Press (3)

On or about April 17, 2016, I was working as co-Editor of The WRITE OR DIE ZINE Project, which is the vision of a fellow California's Condemned Inmate that I had dedicated myself to for 6 years before The Pulse Night Club Mass Shooting in Florida happened on that dreadful day which up to that point was noted by many as the worst Mass Shooting in American History, it was in fact, the worst Mass Shooting against The LGBTQ+ Community for sure.

Up to that moment, I was hit with my own realization that while working and writing for a predominantly Anti-Death Penalty movement, in Zine format, I had not written one word about my own conditions as the only Black Man on California's Death Row that I identified openly as Gay.

Beyond the "Crowded Closet", there is zero history of anyone gay on California Death Row, now, mind you, near to 2013, there is 2 Transgender girls, yet, one received re-assignment surgery and was rehoused at Chowchilla Prison for Women, and a very courageous Latino man that came out as Bi-Sexual around 2 years ago, so out of 750+ people on Death Row 3 people identify to some degree as LGBTQI+, 3 in 750?

San Quentin has a 4,000 plus total inmate population, and during a recent San Quentin Prison Media broadcast of The "EAR Hustle" podcast episode titled "THE Down Low", the inmate host of the podcast stated that "NO one at San Quentin is openly Gay, NO one".

So from the total history of Death Row until now, I'm the only person at San Quentin State

Prison that is Gay? where else in any society can we find these kinds of numbers?, and why?

I pounded my fist on the wall to get the attention of the guy in the cell nextdoor, who at that time on April 12, 2016, who was none other than the creator of The WRITE OR DIE ZINES, WODZ.

While asking if I could theme a WODZ issue LGBTQIT in the wake of The Pulse Night Club Mass Shooting, He simply said, "GET'em", and this was the origins of how the Azande Press Zine issues evolved from that very first LGBTQIT perspective WODZ issue titled "Poetry, Prose & Condz volume 3". This, and all Azande Press Zine issues are available @:

South Chicago ABC Zine Distro  
P.O. Box 721, Homewood, IL. 60430

## (BLACK GAY ZINE ISSUES)

|   |    |
|---|----|
| WODZ - Poetry, Prose & Condz vol 3        | 1. |
| WODZ - I AM Azande                        | 2. |
| Azande Press - Sound Mind Streamer        | 3. |
| Azande Press - Sound Mind Streamer pt. 2. | 4. |
| Azande Press - Gay <del>te</del> keepers  | 5. |
| Azande Press - Liberated Facts            | 6. |
| Azande Press - Direct Message             | 7. |
| Azande Press - SIX                        | 8. |
| Azande Press - Parallaxbox                | 9. |

After the release of the first WODZ issue - PP&C vol 3, I realized that I still had not dealt with the reasons as to why I was the only open gay black man in a prison that housed over 4,000 inmates.

So I took it upon myself to retire from Death Penalty related Journalism, and create a zine issue that was totally Black perspective, Historically, Educationally, and yes, personally.

My TOP-DOWN research method, and inquiry findings concluded that;

a) All California Department of Corrections policies have been by way of litigation settlements refocused, with all care and attention to Department Responses To PREA - Prison Rape Elimination Act, claims are all designed to primarily affect the safety and security of inmates that identify as Transgender, which by default leaves inmates that identify as Gay, or Bi-Sexual under served and vulnerable to abuses.

b) At San Quentin, the Lead PREA Investigator presents as Lesbian, as do the Statewide PREA Coordinator.

c) The One, SQ mainline program is also headed by a volunteer that also presents as lesbian.

with the combination of all three of these observations from within an All Male Prison, San Quentin State Prison officials who are unaware of a 20 year division within the LGBTQ+ Community where a growing number of Programming agendas have been controlled by a Contingency of Lesbians that have mission to retaliate against predominantly Gay Males that notibelly excluded Lesbians, and Transgender persons from the early days of the Gay Liberation movement, in an effort to re-begin the Epic story within New Curriculum that refocuses the Genesis of the movement to the 1969 Stonewall Liberation, headed by Trans Women, that found a new Sisterhood with Lesbian groups, that morph the New Version of Gay history to include Womens issues and causes of the day, at the expense of leaving Gays vulnerable to a

nonprotected position. It is a factual point to make here that most Black Gay prisoners that are so left out of the Family we call LGBTQIT, that most don't know the source of the exclusion, which is now perpetrated primarily by Whites that present as lesbians, that have lobbied CDCR for leadership positions for the programming of inmates that identify as LGBTQIT.

This conduct has been so observed in other society of sad Racial exclusion, that Black LGBTQIT persons had to create "BLACK PRIDE" recognitions, and celebrations during the Month of June which is recognized as "PRIDE MONTH" all over the world; hence, "Latino PRIDE", and more,

For those of You who are in denial, and reject this body of work, please research the recent official change to the Rainbow Flag to include the colors Black, and Brown at the top, and inquire as to why the Community felt it necessary for the official inclusion of Black and Latino people in LGBTQ+ Flag demonstrations.

When CDCR, and San Quentin State Prison defer to the contingency of Lesbians to foster a curriculum designed for the programming of inmates that identify to some degree as LGBTQ+, by default, CDCR exacerbates the ongoing deprivation for the resources, and funding, Social Justice, Historical, and Educational and Spiritual, and Mental Health of the Continuum, and Spectrum of all LGBTQ+ incarcerated Americans.

- F. Smith