

THE GOOD, THE BAD, AND THE

Issue 23 FREE

# TWACKED

A 'ZINE FROM THE GUYS OF THE BOULEVARD



J U N E / J U L Y 2 0 0 8

THE G.U.Y.S PROGRAM  
(Guys Understanding Your Situation)  
A HARM REDUCTION ART PROGRAM  
FOR THE GUYS OF THE BOULEVARD

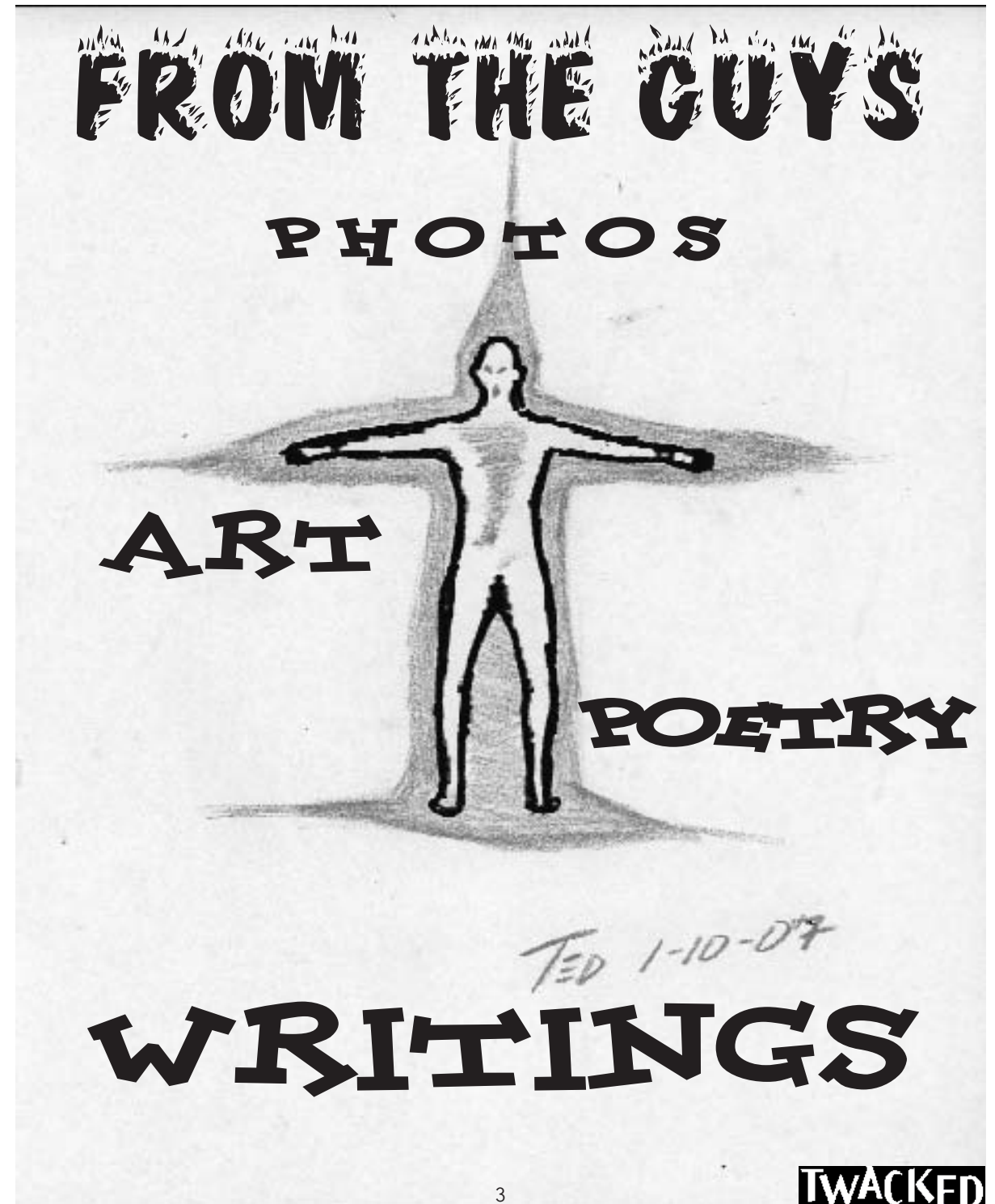
Robby Mason-Risk Reduction Interventionist  
Sam Phillips-Risk Reduction Interventionist

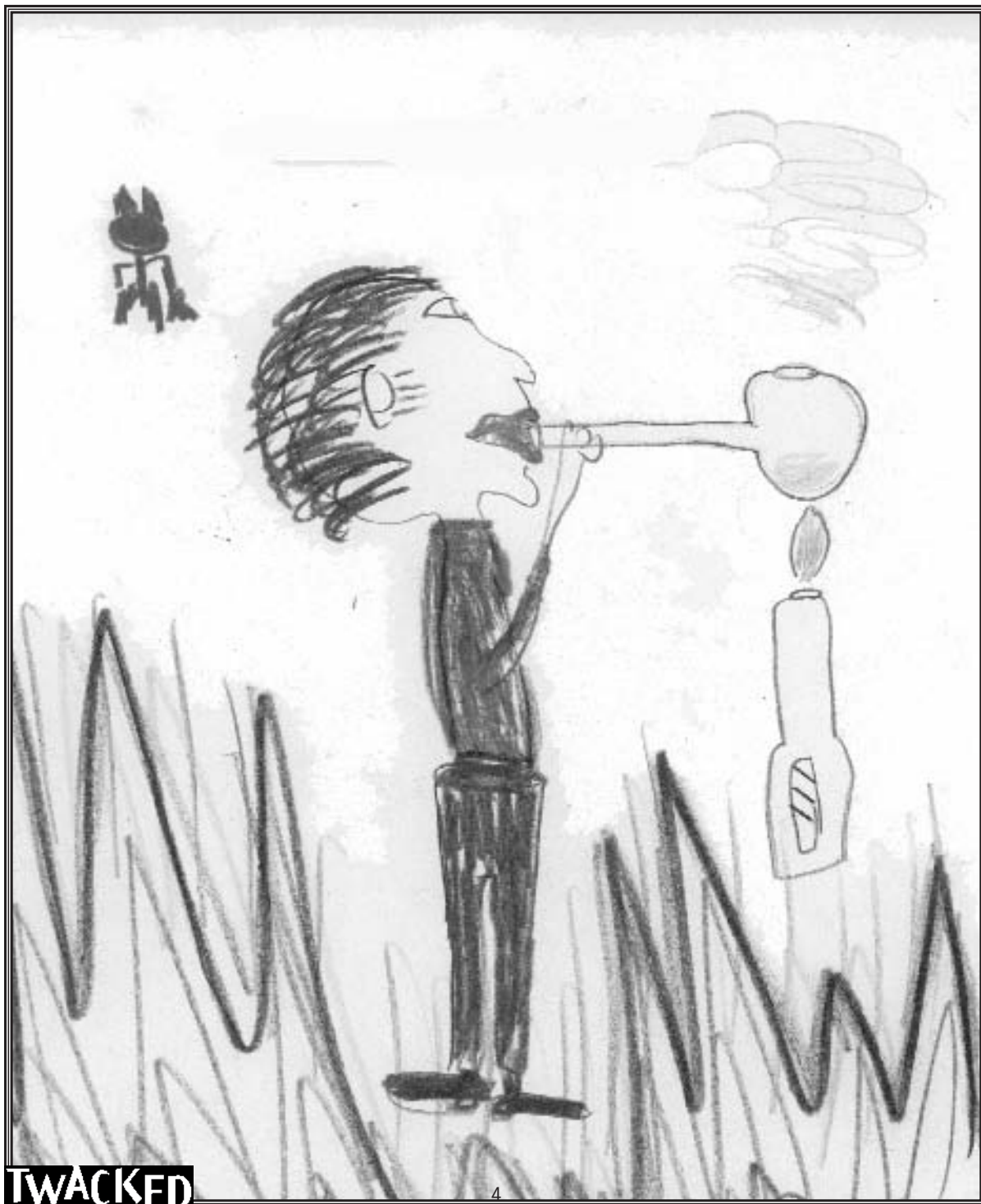
Friends Community Center  
A DIVISION OF FRIENDS RESEARCH INSTITUTE, INC.

Friends Community Center is based on the philosophy of harm reduction. The overall objective of our prevention programs is to reduce the harm that can result from drug use by preventing HIV infection and managing the physical, psychological and psychosocial manifestations of drug use without the requirement of abstinence or recovery. Success is evaluated by any change in behavior that reduces physical, psychological or psychosocial harm to our participants, their loved ones, and/or their community.

Dr. Cathy Reback  
Executive Director, Friends Community Center  
Senior Research Scientist, Friends Research Institute, Inc.

FRIENDS COMMUNITY CENTER WISHES TO THANK THE OFFICE OF AIDS PROGRAMS AND POLICY FOR THEIR SUPPORT OF THE G.U.Y.S.(Guys Understanding Your Situation) PROGRAM.





# My Life with Eric

by,  
Crystal Meth

When I first met Eric he was just a boy. A silly 16 year old boy. It was then I knew we'd have many adventures together.

It was a stormy day and this friend Ryan was so kind as to introduce the two of us. It started out with one hit, followed by another. They both enjoyed it. They enjoyed it so much that they stayed up all night. They painted, cleaned and they even played a game.

Let's fast forward to two months later. We were almost always together. I'd be in his pocket shoe or hiding in his underwear line. He carried me wherever he went. He was more addicted to me than I was to him.

His new found look: a sunk-in face and skinny as can be. I had him alright in that down spiraling fall.

But then a friend came along, followed by rehab, and then I was gone.

# I AM HERE - HEAR ME



I am what you see.  
I am kind, yet I am strong.  
I am scared, yet I am brave.  
I am on the go to no place  
that you would understand.

Robert

**My brain is gone,  
I've found the bong.  
Packed it up and wrote a song.  
Can't we all get along.  
Find a spot where we belong.  
Burn it down like the View-Cong.  
Then pass it along like Tommy Chong.**

**Teddy**

*I don't have to conform to your  
social standard. I am old and set  
in my ways. Leave me the f\_ \_k  
alone or help me if you can with  
some change.*

*Chris*



I use to think that  
people sucked.  
Now I think there is  
good and bad in all.  
I will look for the good  
and forget the bad.

Joe

**Houses for the  
homeless,  
healthcare for the sick.  
The changes I would  
make if I had power.  
Until then it's all I can  
do to make it.**

Jesse



They use to tell me that I would be  
a firemen, lawyer, even  
President. As a child I tested high.  
They said I was a genius. What I  
am is homeless, a recycler. Living  
is alleys. At 42, I am finally tired.  
That's the irony of life.

Ron

*The diamond I will become, is finer then the  
rhinestone I will leave behind.*

Steve

## 10 THINGS I LIKE

- 1.) My humor
- 2.) Sucking a hot guy
- 3.) Not paying rent
- 4.) Fuckin
- 5.) The rush of meth
- 6.) My animal instincts
- 7.) Free weed
- 8.) Getting fucked in between a man & woman
- 9.) Having no bills
- 10.) Whatever feels good

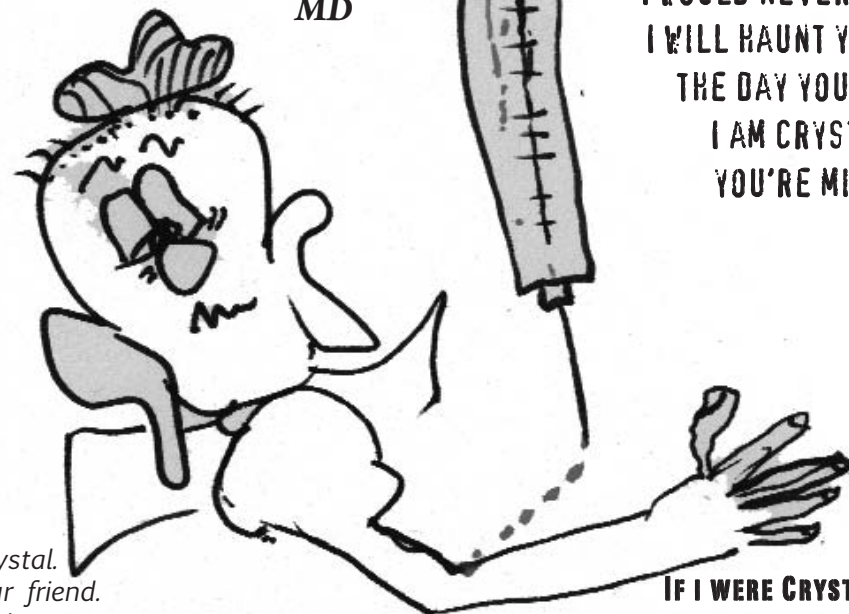
## 10 THINGS I DON'T LIKE

- 1.) Tossing salad
- 2.) My financial situation
- 3.) My low self-esteem
- 4.) Cops
- 5.) Not being able to shower
- 6.) Liars
- 7.) The new me
- 8.) Cumming too soon
- 9.) My dirty little secrets
- 10.) Being lonely and homeless

## IF I WERE CRYSTAL

*I would be a dangerous addictive drug.  
A lot of people would want me.  
I would be expensive.  
People would call me glass.  
They would call me shards.  
I would be clear and beautiful.*

MD



*I am crystal.  
I am your friend.  
I am happiness.  
I am comfort.  
I am joy. I am piece of mind.  
I am all you'll ever need.  
I am all you'll ever be.*

*I am the longing, that longs for  
nothing more.  
I am all there needs to be.  
I am your end for this I am sure.*

Nathan

**I WOULD BE YOUR  
JEALOUS LOVER.  
I WOULD ALWAYS BE BY  
YOUR SIDE.  
I WOULD NEVER LET YOU GO.  
I WILL HAUNT YOU UNTIL  
THE DAY YOU DIE.  
I AM CRYSTAL AND NOW  
YOU'RE MINE.**

STEVEN

**IF I WERE CRYSTAL METH.**

**I WOULD DRUG PEOPLE.**

**RUIN THEIR LIVES.**

**SCOURGE THEIR RELATIONSHIPS.**

**PUT THEIR CHILDREN IN FOSTER CARE.**

**TAKE THEIR HOMES, CARS, THEIR JOBS.**

**CAUSE THEIR FRIENDS TO RUN.**

**I WOULD BEG FOR MORE.**

RON

# Promoting Prevention through Participant Picnics



**I HAVE LOTS OF DISAPPOINTMENT**  
**I SEE A DAGGER IN MY HEART**  
**I HAVE FAMILY PROBLEMS**  
**I AM TWACKED**  
**I HAVE THE HEART OF MY LOVE**  
**I FIND HAPPINESS**  
**I HATE YOU**  
**I THROW IT ALL AWAY FOR DRUGS AND ALCOHOL**  
**I HAVE RAGING HORMONES**  
**I WATCH EXPLICIT XXX**  
**I THINK CRAZY THOUGHTS**  
**I SMOKE CRYSTAL METH**  
**I AM A RICE QUEEN**  
**I AM THE SAME: WHAT YOU SEE IS WHAT YOU GET**

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## HIV / AIDS

I thought life was a party. You could do anything you wanted and get away with it. I wanted to have all the fun I could. I thought it would be okay.

Stay focused. Healthy living, eating right, plenty of vegetables. Taking meds. Keeping records on when and how to take them. Taking them at the appointed time. Keeping the dosage up. Keeping your CD-4 up and your viral load down. Stay focused.

S.S.

R.E.G.

I am from another generation, one the younger guys don't remember. I remember when the disease was almost an immediate death sentence. We mustn't forget what AIDS is and unfortunately probably be for many years to come. A scourge.

*AIDS made me less likely to have casual sex. I stopped using needles. I've had some nail biting moments. But I have been very lucky not to be infected.*

Billy

David

It's by the grace of God I don't have it. From now on I need to be careful. I go from fear to I don't care and back again. Sometimes I'm sick of hearing about it. I want to forget it's out there. I'm sick of it, but thankfully not from it.

It makes me think. I now have to pause before I have sex. I have to regulate how I do my drugs. I use to be indestructible, now I'm fragile. How long will I live? How long do I want to live? Will I outlive my lover.

D.S.B.

G.W.M.



# THE GUYS SPEAK

## WHAT'S ON THEIR MIND

PEOPLE THINK IT'S FUNNY  
OR IT'S OFFENSIVE.  
IF THEY TRADED PLACES FOR A WHILE,  
THEY WOULD SEE WHAT'S REALLY OFFENSIVE.

The cops who killed Usman  
and got away with it.  
It just ain't right.

I walk for my  
salvation. I still haven't  
found it. Pray for me  
before you sleep in your  
bed.

Health, pain and  
hep-C. Biopsy.

YOU SEE PEOPLE LIKE ME EVERY DAY  
ON THEIR WAY TO THEIR FEEL GOOD LATTE.  
WHY DON'T MORE PEOPLE HELP?  
IS YOUR DOUBLE ESPRESSO MORE IMPORTANT?

Stop spending  
on the war and  
start helping us  
here at home.

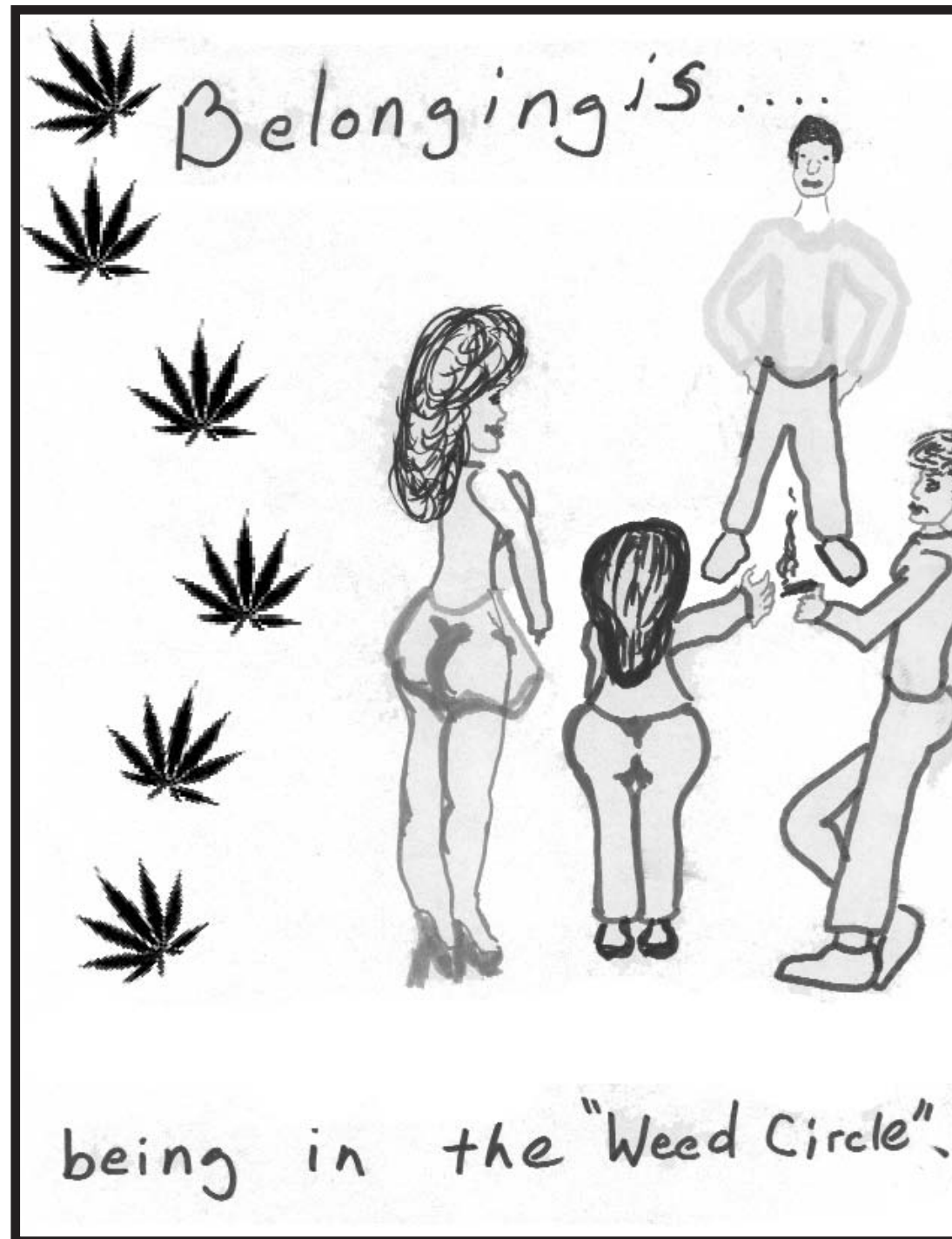
WHY DOES EVERYTHING  
COST SO DAMN MUCH?

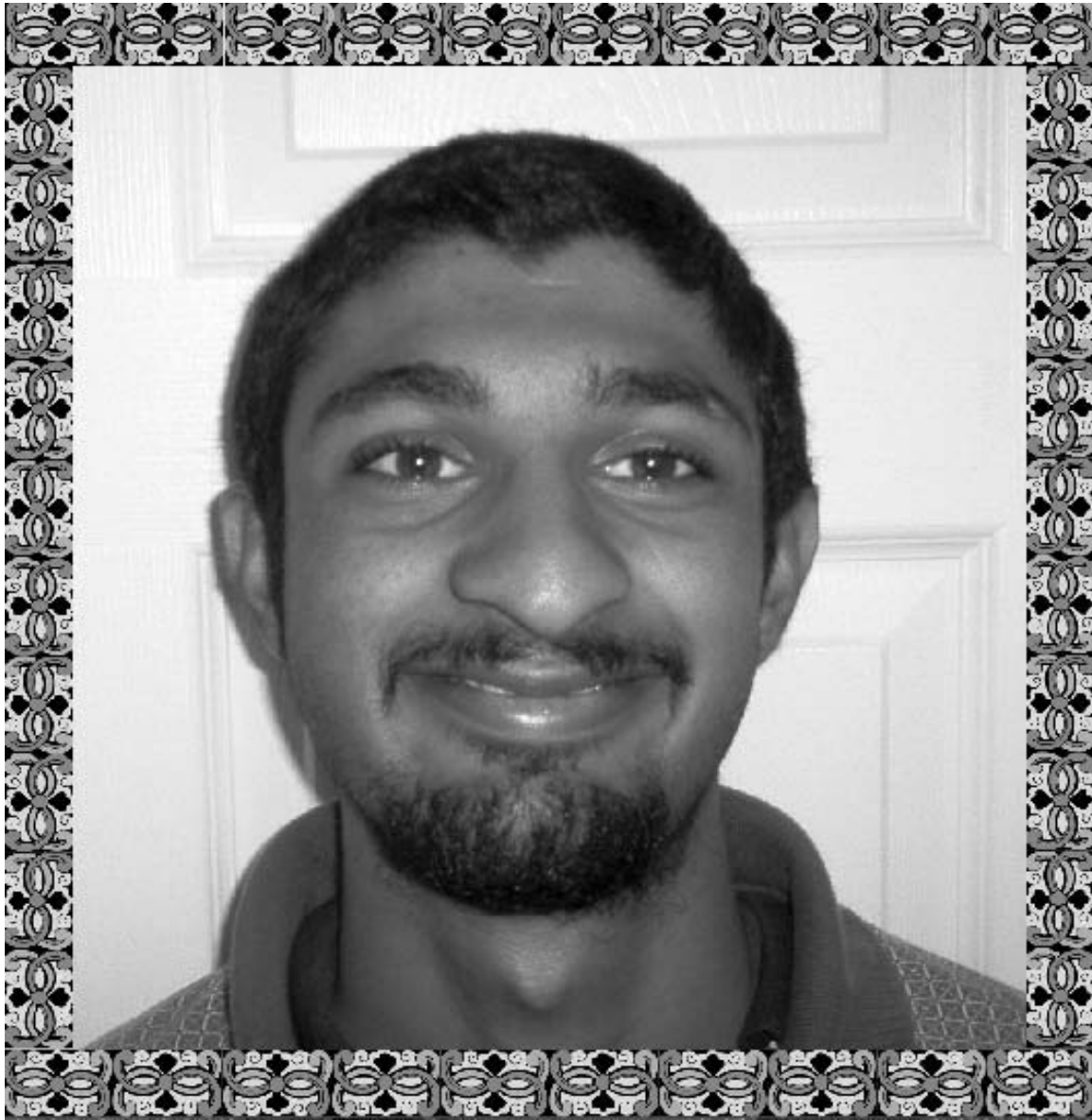
We the pigs of America.  
The dream, the hope, the lie.  
We have no power over anything.  
Situations you have no control over.  
Pull yourself up by your boot straps.

When you stop  
looking at age, race and the like.  
When you stop judging  
others. When you open your heart.  
It's then and only then  
you can find love.

Need.  
weed.  
Need.  
and  
more  
weed.

By: Charles, Jason, WSM, Paul, JET, Nathan, Mike & RAW





## Usman

On March 25, 2008, our friend Usman was killed by the L.A.P.D. He was only 21 years old. This affected the participants of the G.U.Y.S. program deeply and they wanted to dedicate these pages to him. We will all miss him.

# Usman

1987-2008

I miss the way we walked together.  
I miss the special way we talked.  
I feel alone and cold,  
cause your smile would make me feel  
at home and warm.  
You were there when I needed you.  
Most of all, you understood me when  
no one could.  
You're lost to me now,  
but not forgotten.  
For when my life is over,  
I know I'll see you again.

James H



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## info U asked 4

CNN  
323.857.5366  
needle exchange program  
Sun. 5-7pm Thur. 6:30-10pm  
Sycamore & Santa Monica

CRYSTAL METH ANONYMOUS  
213.488.4455

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS  
323.936.4343

FRIENDS COMMUNITY CENTER  
harm reduction, groups, prevention case management  
for users  
323.463.1601

FRIENDS LA BREA  
323.463.7001  
free treatment  
for crystal meth users

TARZANA TREATMENT CENTER  
818.996.1051

VAN NESS RECOVERY HOUSE  
323.463.4266

SAFE HOUSE  
818.763.7940  
high tolerance housing for HIV+ mentally ill  
and/or chemically dependent

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA HIV/AIDS HOTLINE  
800.922.AIDS

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LAGLC HEALTH & MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES  
323.993.7500  
323.993.7575  
HIV & STI testing Mon.-Fri. 11:30am-2:30pm  
HIV (testing only) Mon.-Fri. 5:30-7:30pm

THE S.P.O.T.  
323.993.7440  
STI testing Tue.-Fri. 3-8pm (last test @ 7:30pm)  
Rapid HIV testing Tue.-Fri. 3-8pm (last test @ 7:30pm)

MINORITY AIDS PROJECT  
323.936.4949  
HIV testing free & anonymous

SUICIDE PREVENTION HOTLINE  
877.727.4747 or  
310.391.1253