

THE GOOD. THE BAD. AND THE

TWACKED

A ZINE FROM THE GUYS OF THE BOULEVARD

ISSUE 36 FREE



APRIL / MAY 2015

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

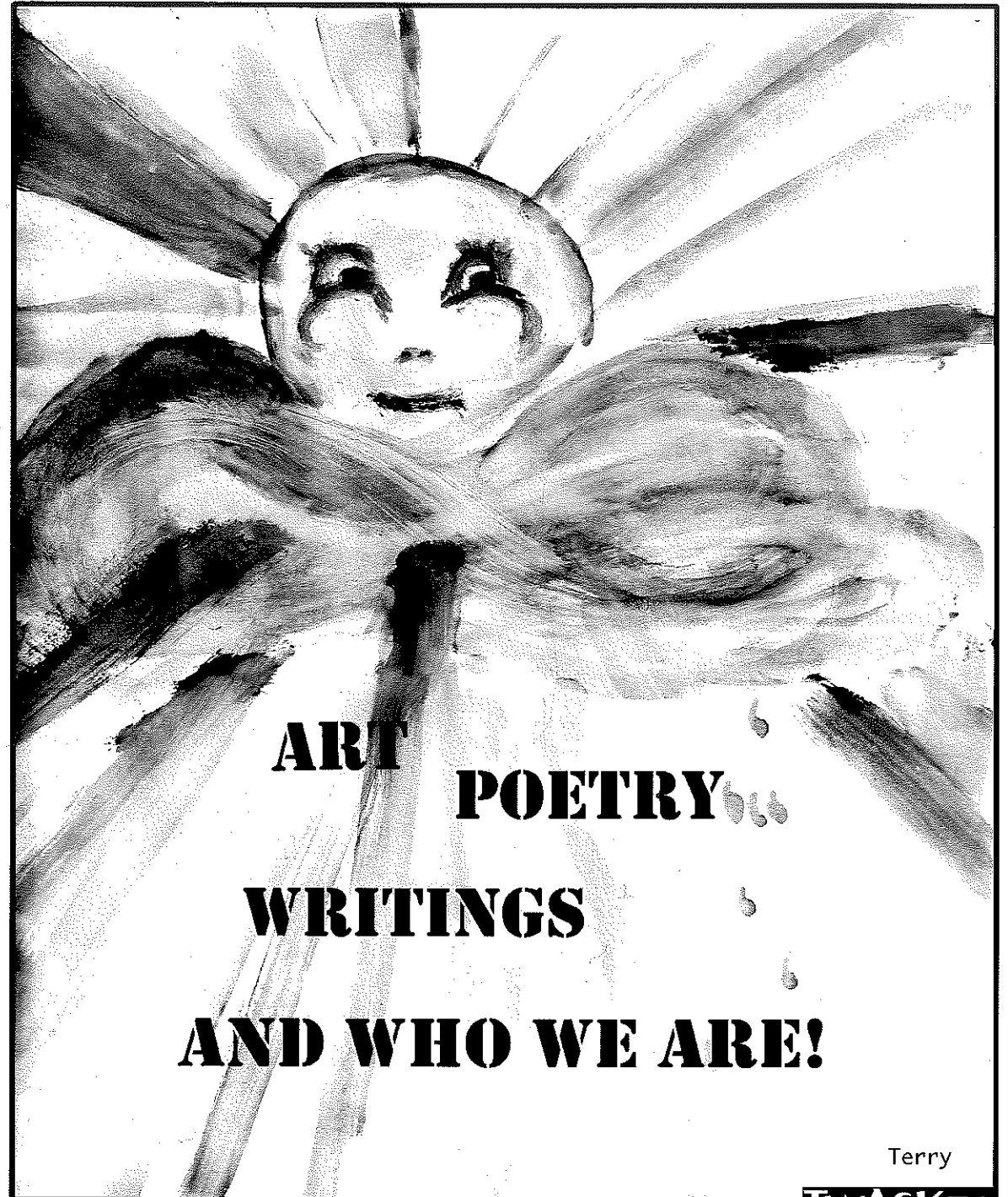
Rafael Cadenas - Risk Reduction Interventionist
Raphael Ganchequi - Risk Reduction Interventionist

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 DIVISION OF HIV/STD PROGRAMS FOR THEIR SUPPORT OF THE G.U.Y.S. (Guys Understanding Your Situation) PROGRAM.



**ART
POETRY
WRITINGS
AND WHO WE ARE!**

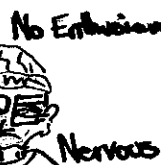
Not
GOOD?

"Crystal-Meth"

Unprotected Sex

Rafael P
AKA
Bad ¹/_{Royal}

Whats good about Meth Use?
Nothing!! I've destroyed my
life again!



Good? No Good!!
It's a chemical.

Good? How when I've
lost my family & friends.

Good? Dope is horribly
nasty!!

Good? Can't think of 1 reason

- Depression
- Paranoid
- Weightless
- Lonely
- Lost
- Hopeless
- Hygiene
- Decision Making
- Addicted
- Loss of Self-Worth
- Fearful
- Fantasy World
- No feelings

Suicidal Thoughts



Mike



Well just to keep it simple, when it comes to weed I only need a nickle, although too much scheming can put you in a pickle. I ain't got time to fret, especially when I'm with frenemies smoking a bowl of meth.

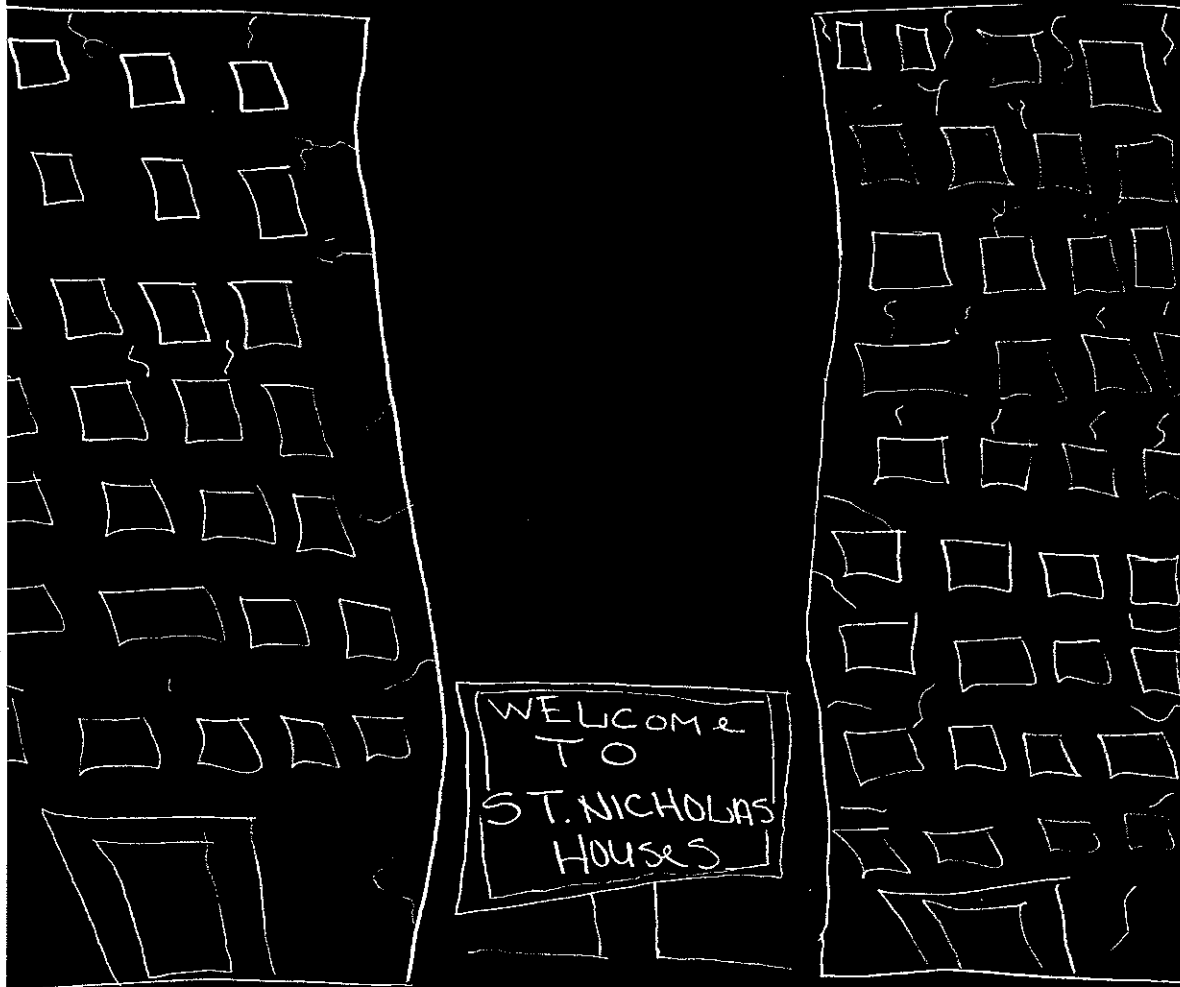
Right now my choices got me feeling like a bum wishing I could shoot up these veins to feel numb. Teeth chattering without a stick of gum. Feeling like a lost kitten, paranoid and guilt ridden.

I was right, this got rid of the bore now things are worse than before. Here I am again on the grind, I promised myself this time to keep this tape playing in my mind.

What it's like to be with a little hope inside? I love the hate I am feeling for drugs and alcohol right now.

By: Jeremy

My self portrait without myself.



HARLEM²¹², NY
UP TOWN

Germany

TWACKED

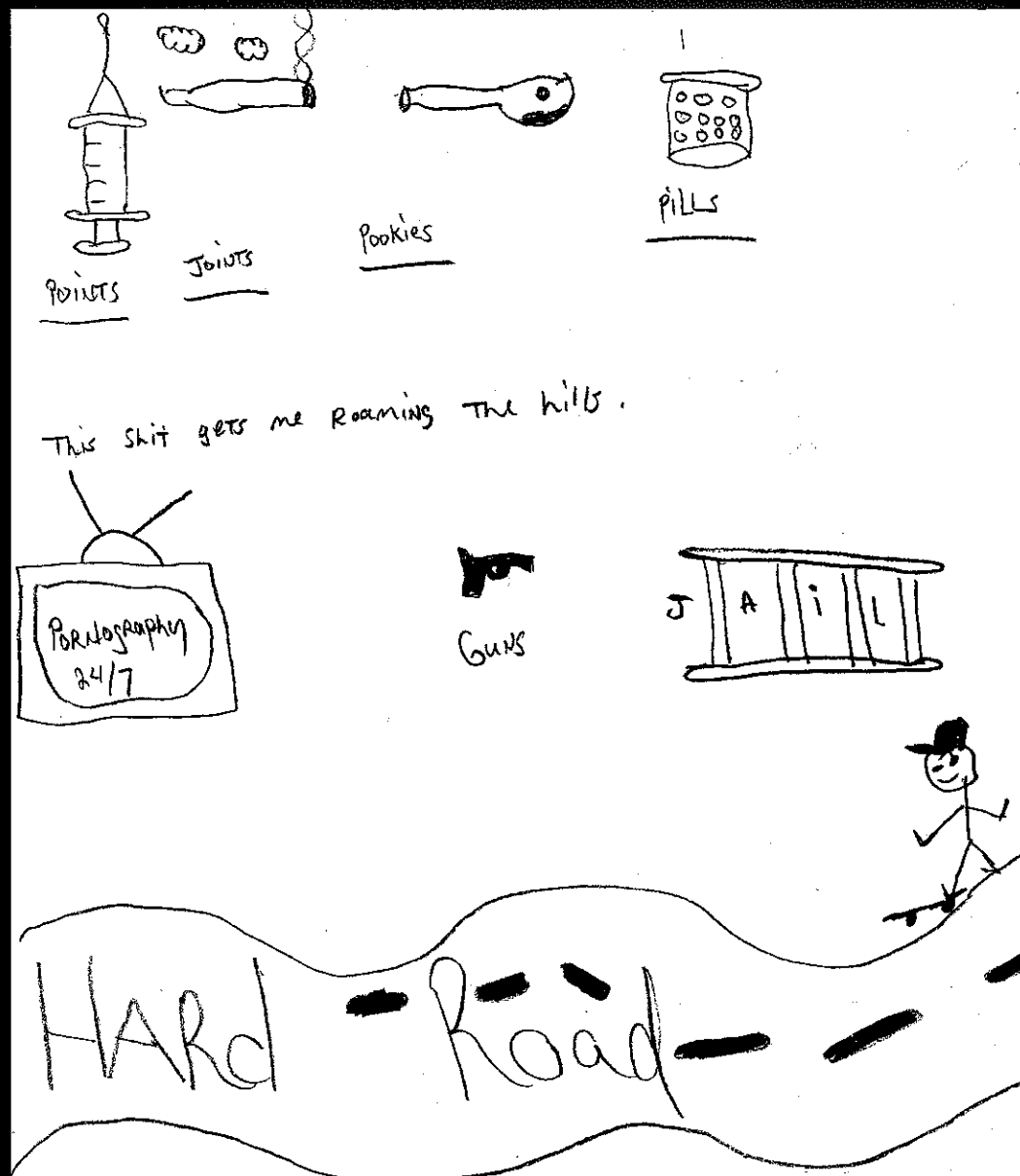
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N.L.W.

TWACKED

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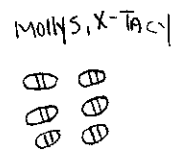
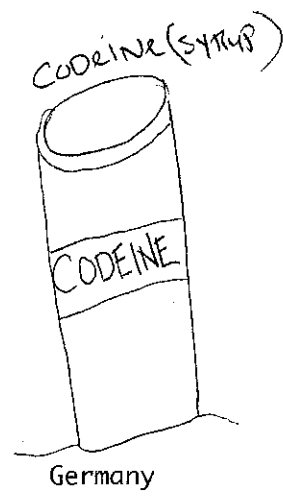
This shit gets me roaming the hills.

"Skating past potholes as I travel down this hard, lonely road."
-Scorpio

COCAINE
COWBOY

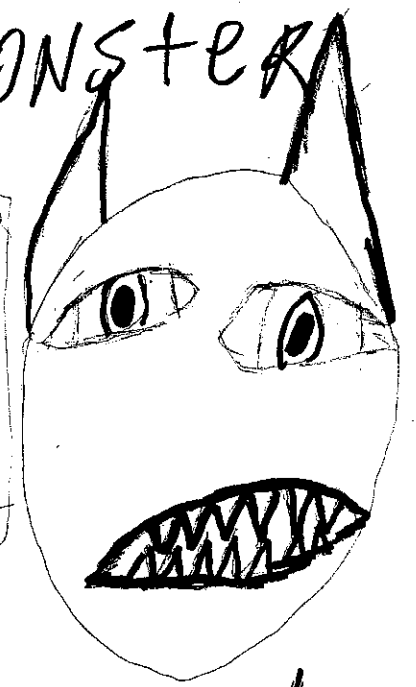
I have a dream that all homeless people won't be homeless, and that their self-esteem will be high, so that they don't have to use any substances.

-Rome



MONSTER

"I CHOOSE NOT TO USE METH"



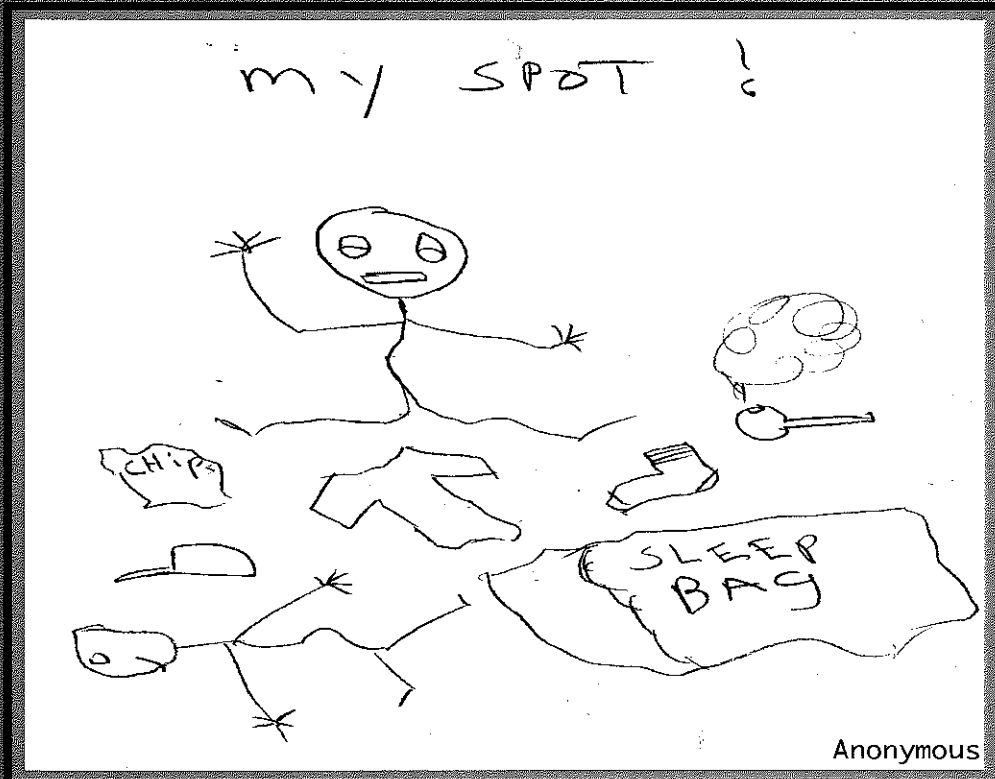
Jason

Meth Scott

My Time Before G.U.Y.S Group

1970 Born and raised in Pomona, California.
1977 I found my way to East L.A. and began a dysfunctional life, which only brought pain and misery.
1979 I experienced my first drug, my first arrest, and I haven't looked back since.
1982 I went to juvie for the first time. I must have liked it because I invested a lot of time there.
1989 I smoked crack for the first time and got addicted.
1996 I got hooked on meth.
2006 I got into recovery.
2008 I was clean for two years.
2010 I got arrested, did time, got out and found my way to Friends Community Center.

-Frank



We Are The G.U.Y.S Group

WE COME FROM South Baton Rouge Louisiana, a small college town in Upland.
WE COME FROM Heaven.

WE'VE BEEN To Hell, homeless on the streets of Louisiana to California, to prison and jail.
WE'VE BEEN to The Strip Club.

WE'VE BEEN in and out of relationships, been understood at other times.
WE'VE BEEN hoes! Been going through loneliness.

WE'VE LOST A sister, an uncle, auntie, and cousins. Lost our minds and our health, lost too much time, need more action!
WE'VE LOST The ability to make wise choices and accept change.

WE HAVE NEVER Seen the light because we have always learned to live in the dark, where others can't see us, and we could get away with anything we see fit.
WE HAVE NEVER Given up, stopped, or pulled back.

WE'VE HAD a sense of humor with excellent timing. Overcome race, death, and ourselves to become a whole individual.
WE'VE LEARNED to accept change and caught on quicker.

WE HAVE MADE Mistakes, love, money, friends, our own beds, sofas, sidewalks, benches, hammocks, and foot prints.
WE HAVE MADE Fools out of ourselves in order to get better.

WE HAVE SLEPT On the street, with strangers in the alley, on benches, and police cars always promising to change.
WE HAVE SLEPT On our own greatness, we have slept with anyone who will let us.

WE ARE Gay, bisexual, fighters, proud, thankful. We are extreme! We are grateful for the change within us.
WE ARE The G.U.Y.S. Group.

By: Randy, Mike, Robert, Arthur, James



“When life gets hard,
I put my headphones on,
and I just listen to my music.
I close my eyes,
and for that moment
I escape to a place where nothing else matters.”

-Anonymous

You Know Who You Are!

Not quite a diamond,
but shit gets hard choosing your route down your boulevard.

Things rarely slow with you in the picture.
Things are never clear and you are no liquor.

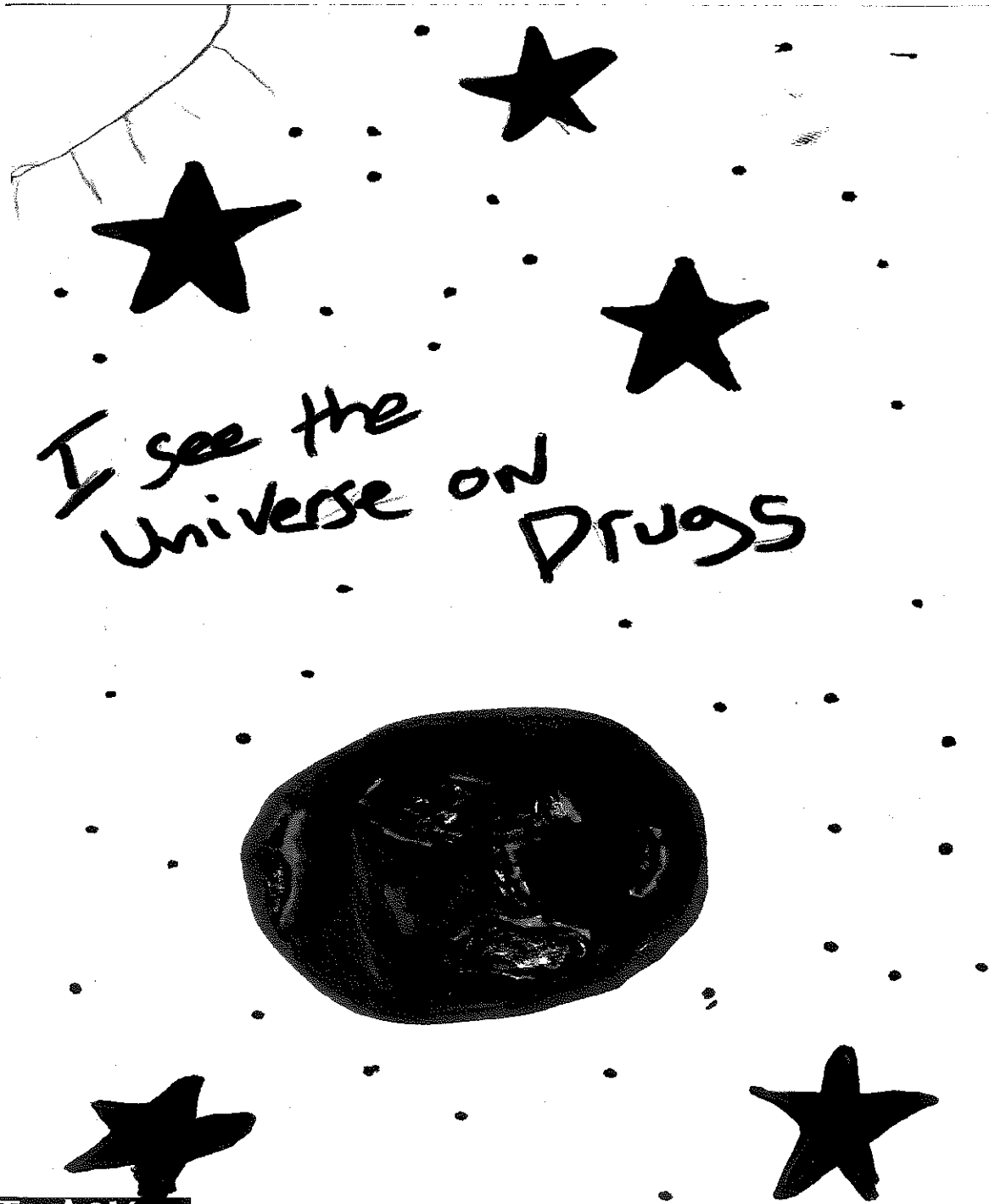
Many People talk shit,
but you make no mention
because when you crack back you grab their attention.

When we use each other we show no respect.
The only relationship, when it's right to neglect.

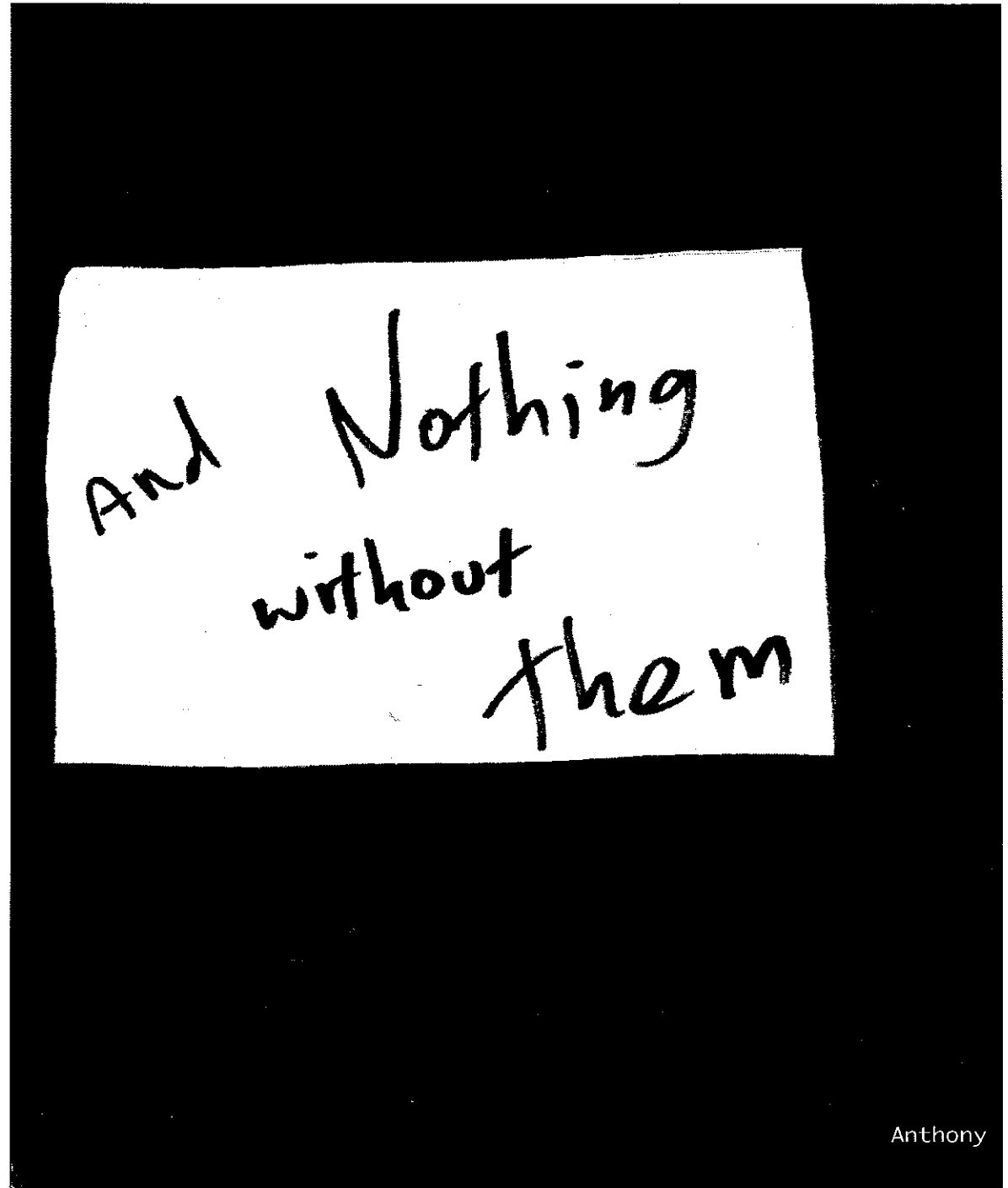
By: Robert



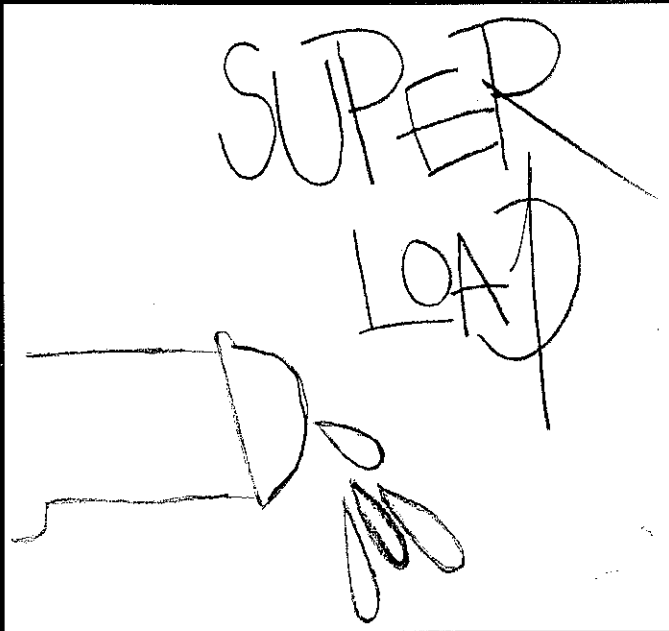
Jeremy



I see the
universe on
DRUGS



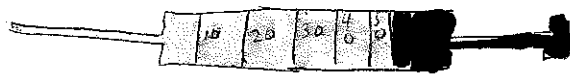
And Nothing
without
them



Riddle me this,
 riddle me that.
 I shoved my rod
 in that tight hole
 of tight hot love
 of mine.
 With my lightning
 rod that I got,
 I got a super
 load.

-Anonymous

CAN catch STDS
 AND HIV IF YOU mess with
DRUGS?

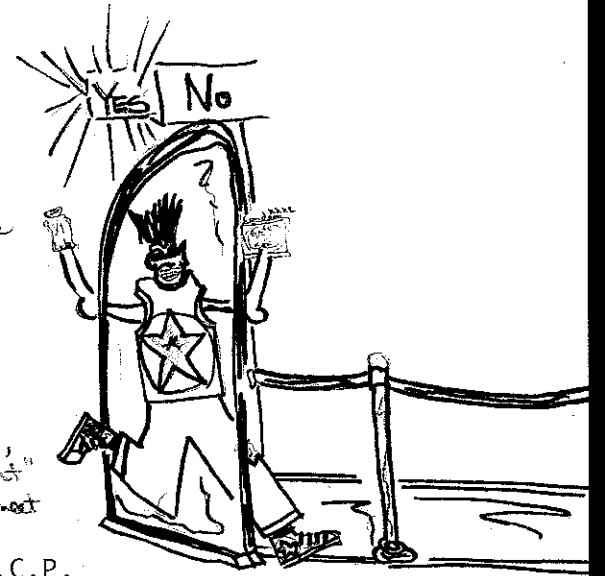


EVEN DEATH!!!

M.A.G.

"S.T.D." Detector

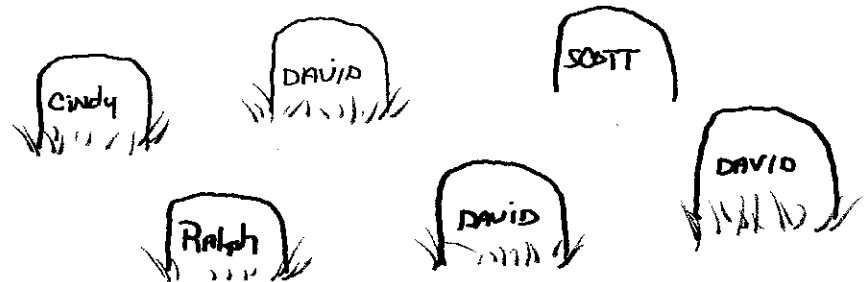
Available At Your Local
 Gay Friendly Community Center.
 Applicant would step through the
 Center of Machine. You would either
 get a yes or no! If you ever
 needed to check and see if you
 are compatible with someone,
 "Positive or Negative". This is the
 machine for you!!



"Warning: Will not detect the
 Ex-Boy Friends, Parolee at large's,
 No Skills, All Talk, "You Aint Right"
 People that you don't want to meet
 and share pleasure with."

R.C.P.

UNSAFE Sex Could Lead
 To This



Early Death

Ralph

PROTECT YOUR

LifeStyles
SAFE SEX

SEX

BODY ARMOR

I started my personal revolution

got prep?

HIV-

POI treatment

DESTROY AIDS NOW

Robert

December 1st



World AIDS Day

Robert

TWACKED

info you asked 4

LA LGBT CENTER
HEALTH & MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES
323.993.7500
323.993.7575
323.860.5855

THE S. P. O. T.
323.993.7440

MINORITY AIDS PROJECT
323.936.4949
HIV testing free & anonymous

SUICIDE PREVENTION HOTLINE
877.727.4747

FRIENDS COMMUNITY CENTER
323.463.1601
risk reduction education & support groups for
gay/bi men & transgender women

FRIENDS GETTING OFF
323.463.7001
free treatment for crystal meth users

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA HIV/AIDS HOTLINE
800.367.2437

FCC has been a place where I
can learn about life. I've learned
a lot about myself. I've learned how
to make better decisions cause
now I got more info. But most
of all I can come here and be
myself. With no Apologies.



CRYSTAL METH ANONYMOUS
213.488.4455
855.METH.FREE

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS
323.936.4343
310.474.7339

TARZANA TREATMENT CENTER
818.996.1051

VAN NESS RECOVERY HOUSE
323.463.4266