

THE GOOD. THE BAD. AND THE

ISSUE 37 FREE

# TWACKED

A ZINE FROM THE GUYS OF THE BOULEVARD



DECEMBER 2015 / JANUARY 2016

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

John Green - 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.

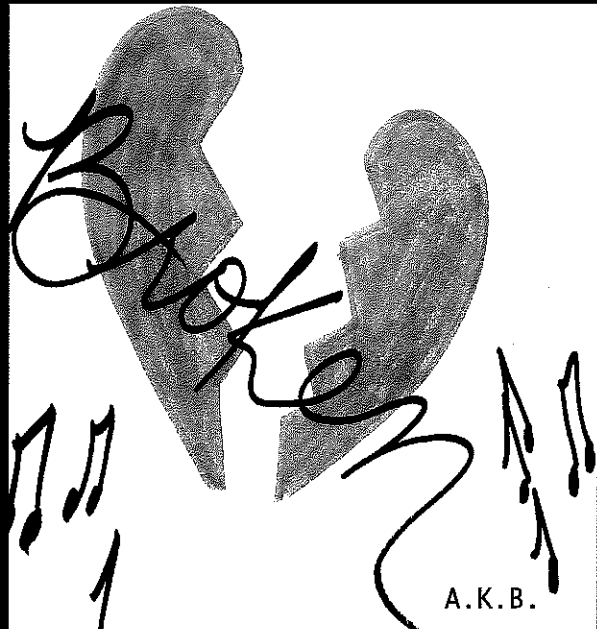
FRIENDS COMMUNITY CENTER WISHES TO THANK THE DIVISION OF HIV/STD PROGRAMS FOR THEIR SUPPORT OF THE G.U.Y.S. (Guys Understanding Your Situation) PROGRAM.





# THE PROTECTOR

By  
BRAD.



A.K.B.



Anonymous

## If Tomorrow Comes

Depression, frustration, confusion, rejection  
will pass only if tomorrow comes.

I feel like the devil's son,  
Chasing happiness is a ghost to me.  
Unhappiness is my reality.

Love is blasphemy when life is passing me,  
But it will change if tomorrow comes.

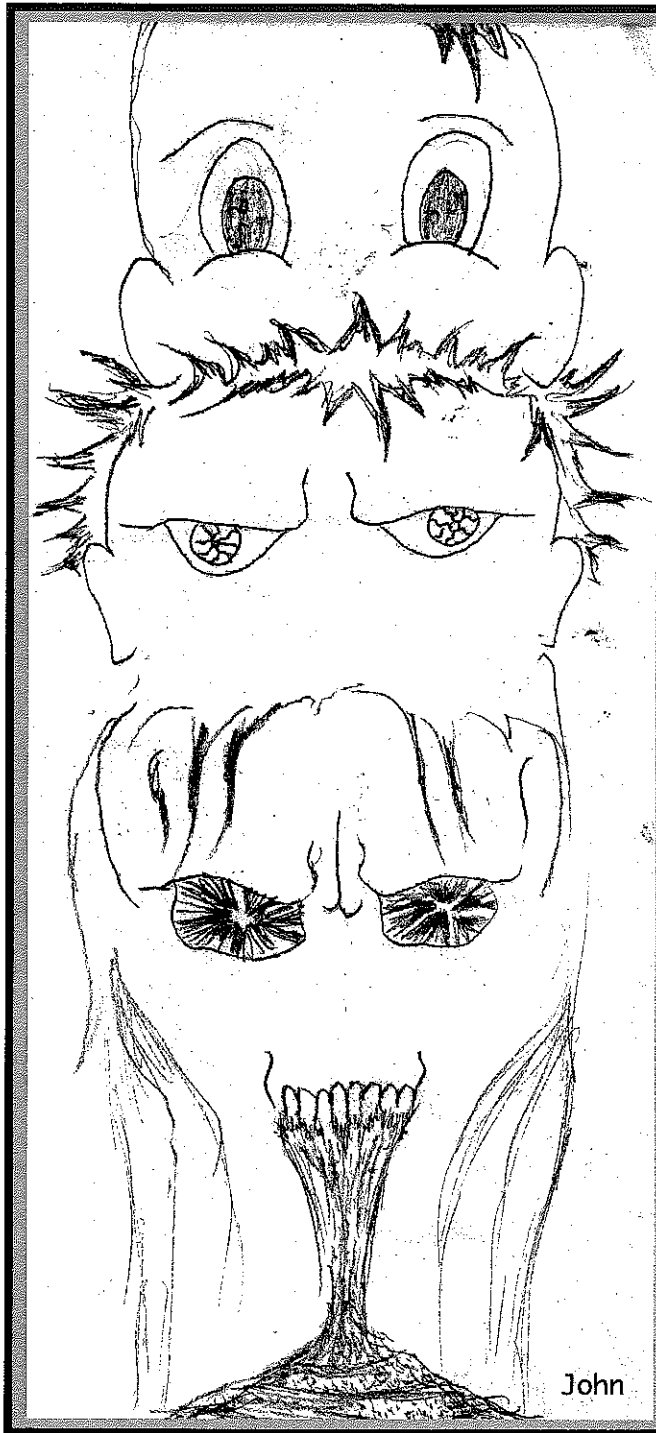
Was a Harlem kid all I was meant to be?  
Non-regretful for what I did?

Scared for life,  
I try to be there for my daughter.  
Feeling like a pig going to the slaughter.

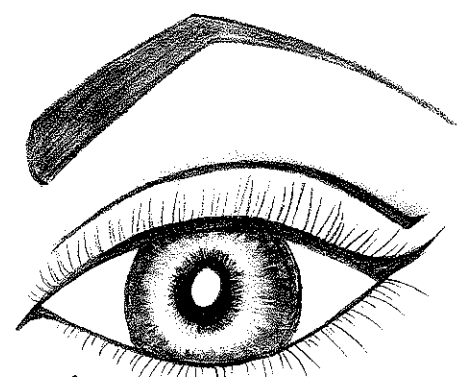
No matter who doesn't like me,  
Accepts me, or love me.

Bullshit beneath me,  
My dreams above me,  
If tomorrow comes.

By: G.C.T.



John



*Life's a  
Drag... Taylor*

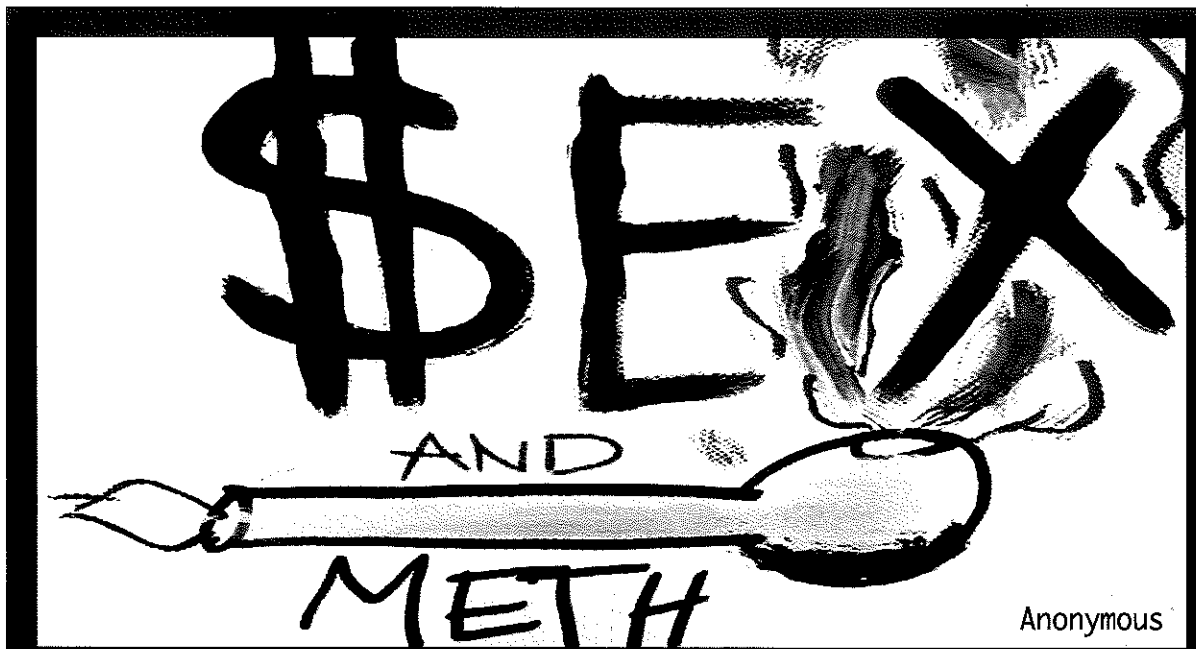
**Pleasure to Pain**

A little wouldn't do it,  
So a little became more and  
more.

At times it frustrated me  
greatly.

Other times it was not so bad;  
When there was a substitute,  
Or just someone to share the  
crash.

Dario



Anonymous



Paul

Sex is like memory,  
So long since I've had schlong,  
But back when dick was good, and  
plenty.

All I wanted was to have him up in  
me.

High, sober, or somewhere in between.  
You were my king, and I your queen.  
Now you're gone, and all we shared  
has gone from gold to shit.

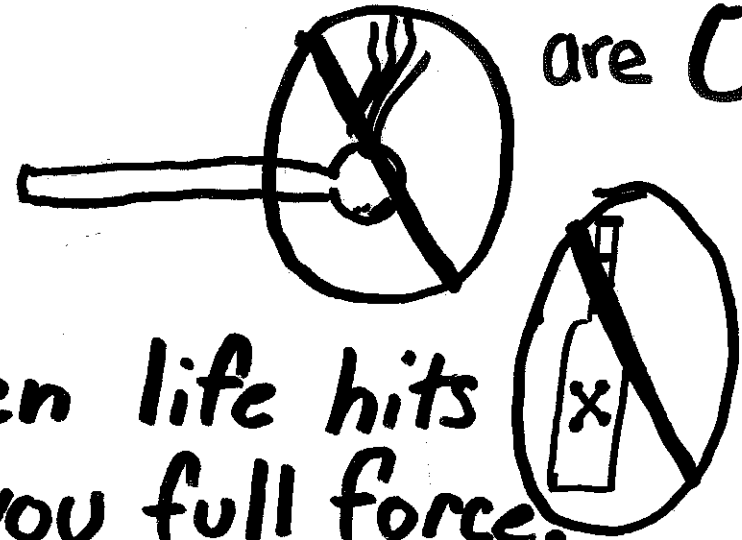
Now I'm mostly mad, so mad I can't  
spit.

So all those potential mates that deny  
my life and time.

It's okay since I ain't getting fucked  
things are just fine.

Poem by: Cleo  
Art by: John

It's only fun till the parties  
are **Over**.



Then life hits  
you full force.

L.R.T

**My first experience getting a STI, well at first I was in shock. Then came denial, then I had to accept that this had happened to me by someone I thought was a friend, and I trusted. That's when I came to grips with it. Now I am more aware of who I choose to have sex with. Please don't do drugs and have sex it's not a perfect match. It only leads to a tragic ending.**

**Sincerely yours,  
Mr. Better Choices**



# The Mask We Wear

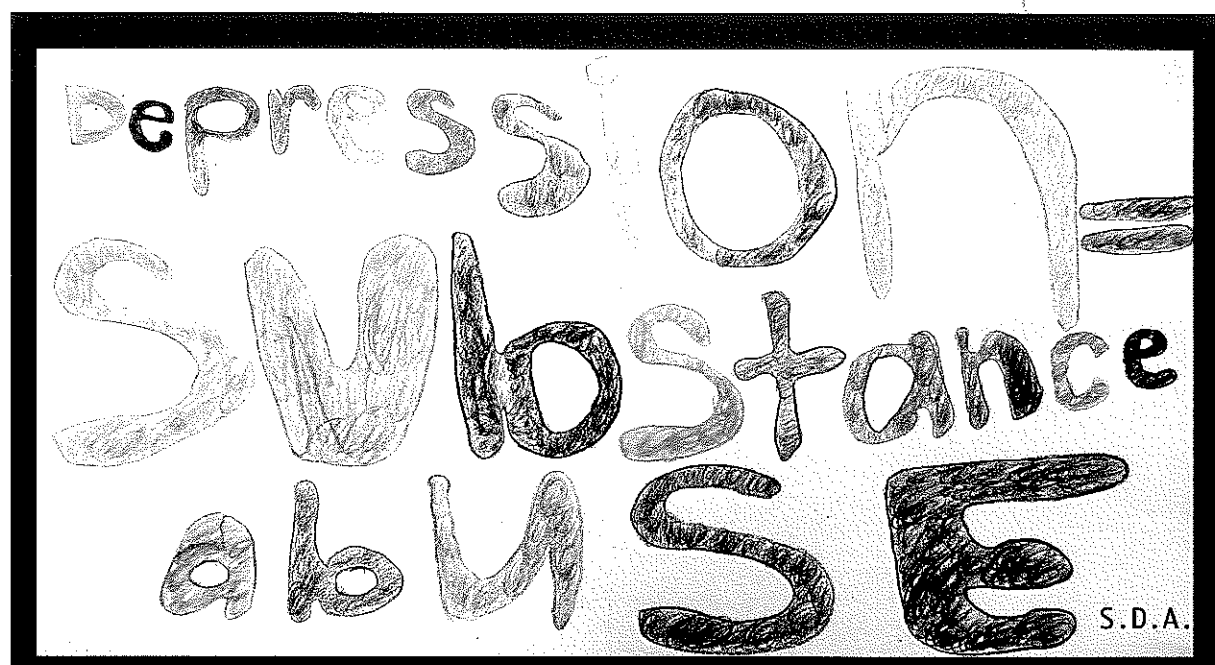
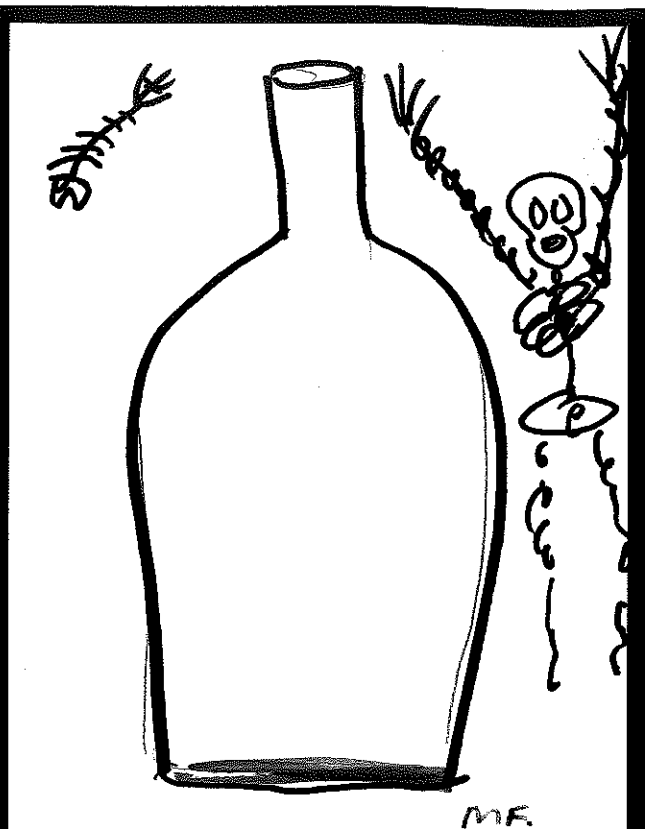
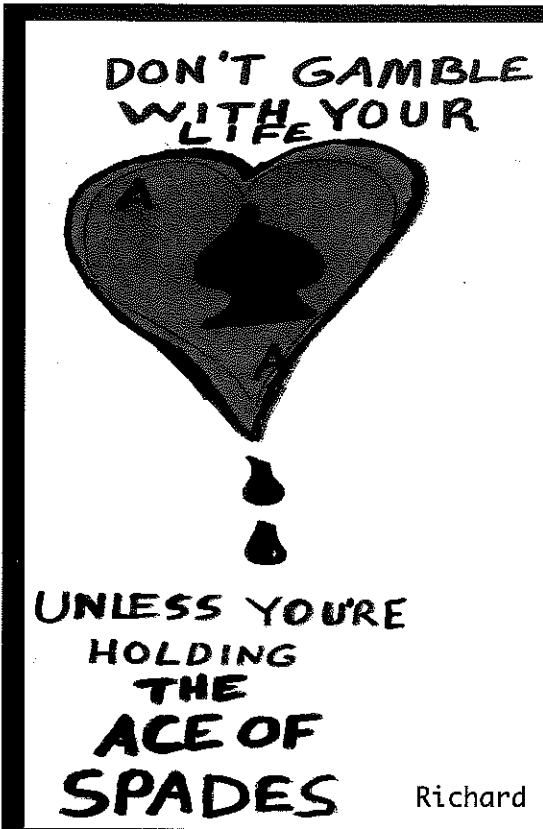


# A Little About Me

1. I AM A MUSICIAN.
2. USED TO PLAY minor-league hockey.
3. I can build websites + program.
4. I AM A PRACTICING CATHOLIC.
5. I used to be a meth addict.
6. I don't like my beard.
7. I like CATS.
8. I love old movies.
9. I appeared in a rock video.
10. I live in a shelter.

Stuart

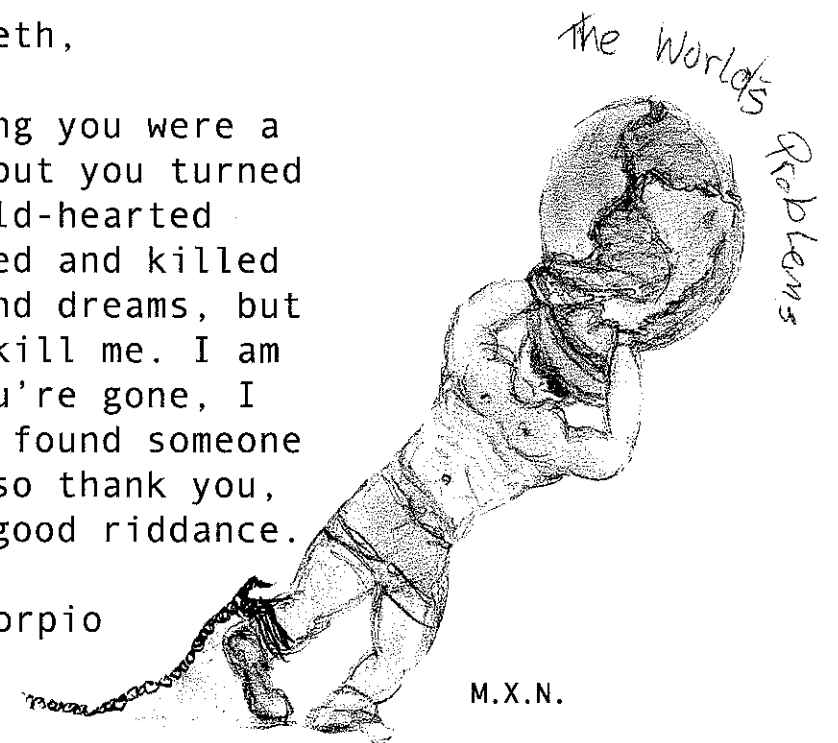




Dear Crystal Meth,

In the beginning you were a good partner, but you turned out to be a cold-hearted bitch. You robbed and killed all my hopes and dreams, but you could not kill me. I am still here, you're gone, I am not. I have found someone more special, so thank you, good bye, and good riddance.

-Scorpio









## How has HIV affected my life?

Loss, death, dissatisfaction, that's how HIV has affected my life. Coming from Haiti one of the highest AIDS rates. That's how HIV has affected me, my life, and my loved ones.

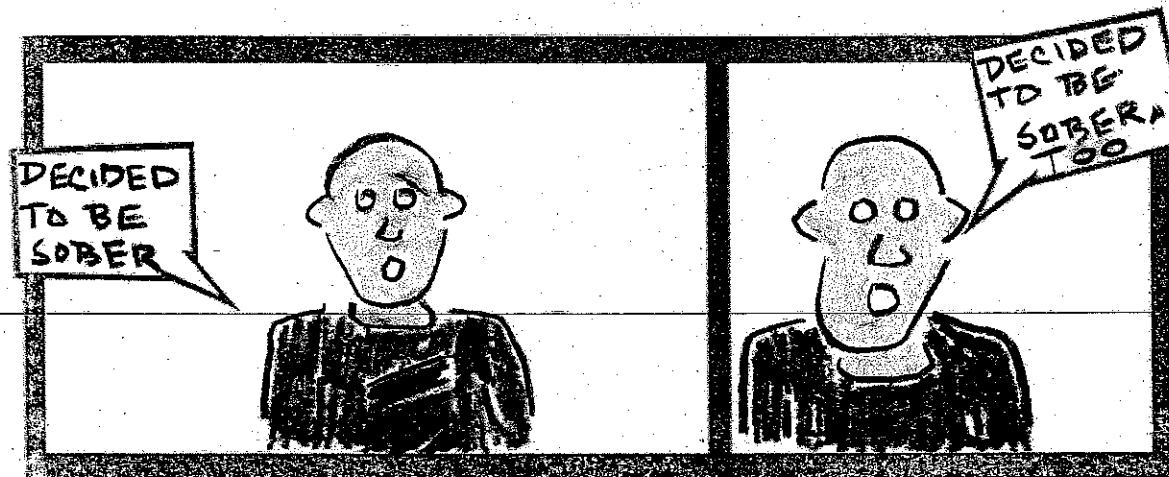
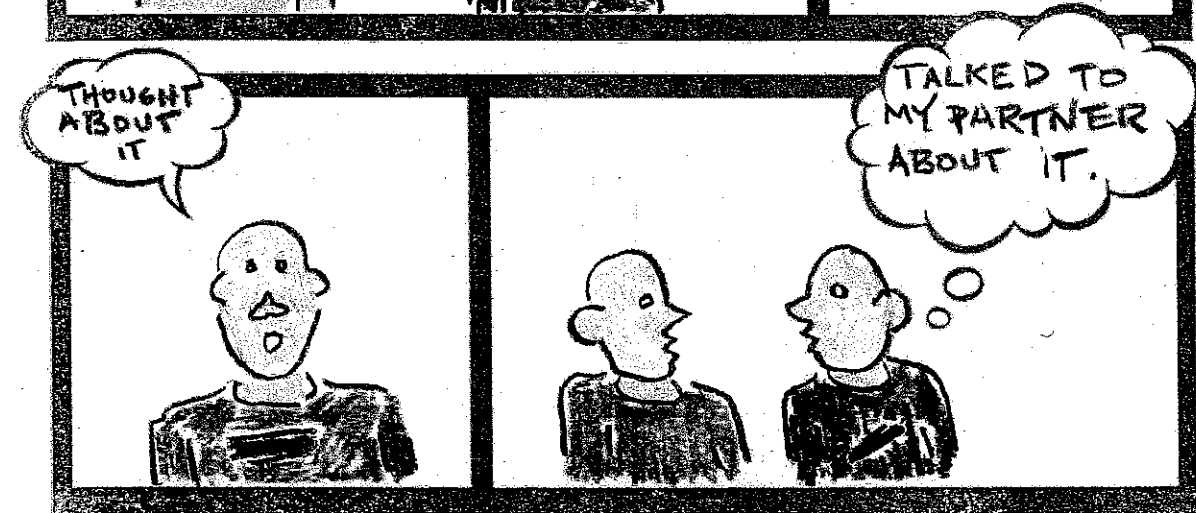
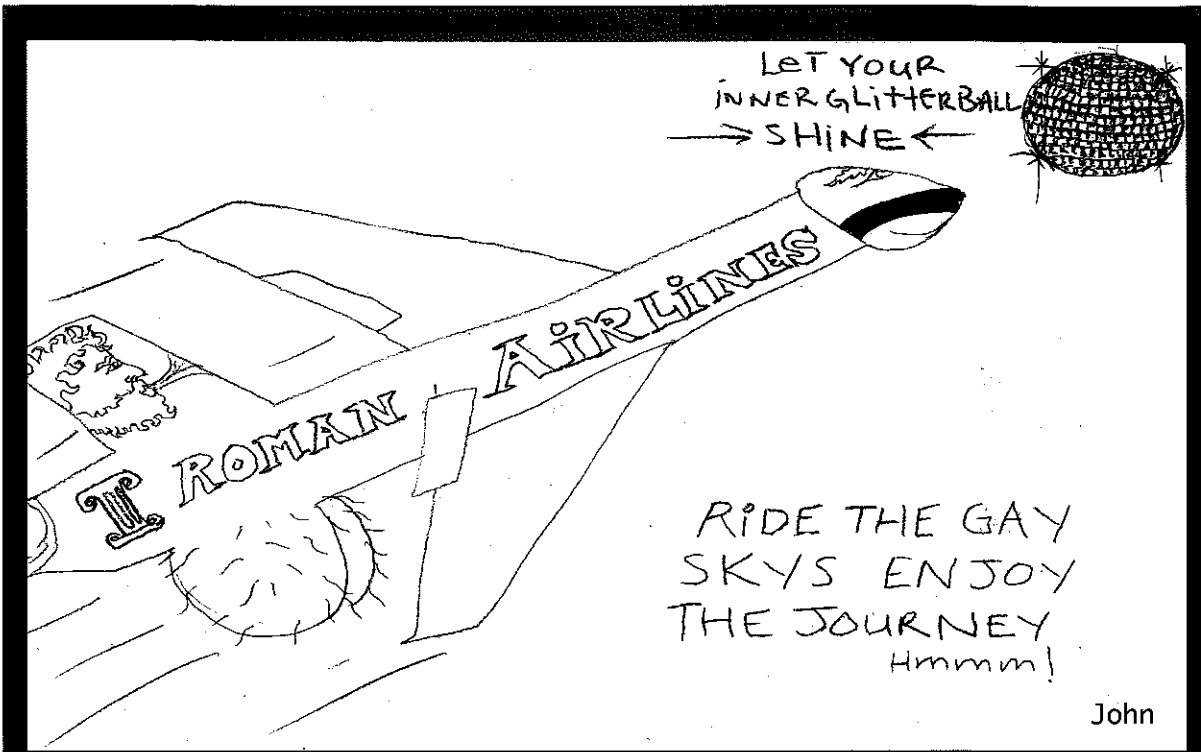
Germany

## Ultimate PrEP



I'm really glad I came to the G.U.Y.S. group today and learned about PrEP. Before today I had never heard that such a thing existed. It's comforting to know that science has come such a long way since HIV first plagued our lives. I have always felt secure in leaving my concerns with God, but I'm thankful that for humanity's sake, science has created PrEP. Thank you, Friends Community Center for this information. I will pass the word along to help the fight against HIV.

Koing



# 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 & confidential

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

### Street Survival Guide

1. Money: General Relief, Social Security
2. Food: Friends Community Center, Food Line, Food Stamps
3. Medical: AHF, LA LGBT Center
4. Showers: Saban Community Clinic
5. Shelter: PATH, LAMP, DTLA Mission
6. Testing: Friends Community Center, Out of the Closet
7. Communication: Obama Phone, Library
8. Clothing: Friends Community Center, Friends Helping Friends
9. Needle Exchange: LA LGBT Center

The guys of the G.U.Y.S. group

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