

volume 7 issue 1

l a r t

summer 2001

Living

features

P. PERRY

safe injecting rooms

with
how to cope with
contaminated water
drugs

how to cope with
contaminated water



psykoid stickers

DON'T SHARE



DON'T INITIATE ANYONE
OR SELL DRUGS TO KIDS



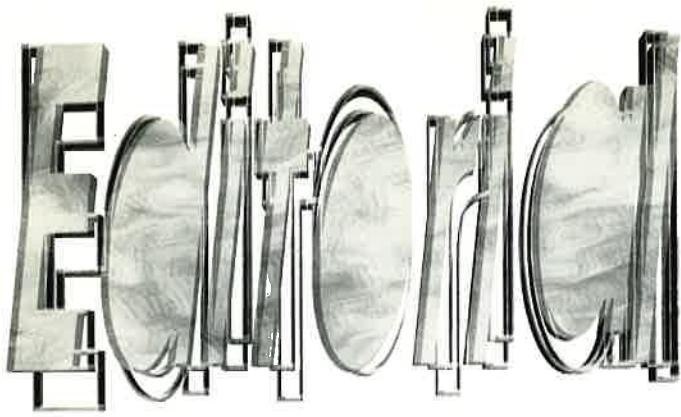
SUPPORT PEOPLE
WHO ARE TRYING TO
RECOVER THEIR
HEALTH



DISPOSE SAFELY

IN HOUSE DETOX





I guess that all editions of DART have living with drugs as a general theme and this edition is no exception. We have tried to draw together a wide range of articles by people who use a range of legal and illegal drugs. Some of these people use QuIVAA's services, others are paid and unpaid staff. They all have one thing in common and that is that they have something they believe is worthwhile saying and they are using DART as the medium to say it.

This edition of DART also showcases some of the work being done at QuIVAA by a wide range of paid and unpaid staff. A social work student on placement developed the PSYKOID stickers, NSP volunteers have come up with resources to help prevent unsafe disposal and h.a.r.d.u.p has been funded by Queensland Health to work with recreational drug users in the Valley venues.

Hopefully there will be something in this edition of DART that catches your eye and it may even encourage you to make your own contribution in the future.

Thanks to everyone involved in helping to produce this edition especially Matt for his artwork and layout designs. It was a team effort.

To all the people at all of our services, we wish you the best for the year and have a happy and safe 2001.

Contents

The opinions expressed in this magazine are those of the contributors, and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of QuIVAA our staff or management

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For more information please call
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Some people might think that QuIVAA is just a needle exchange and that all we do is give out fits to anyone and everyone who walks through the door.

Needle availability is not the whole QuIVAA story though, and is only a part of what we are trying to do. Most people probably haven't yet realised that QuIVAA provides heaps more services than just the supplying & disposing of sharps.

As well as free sharps kits, QuIVAA's other core services are user-friendly health care (at Clinic 191 just next door), and user focussed detox options (for those who want them) at InHouse (next door to the Clinic).

Or you can just drop in or give us a call anytime. We can give you a hand or offer advice about all sorts of things like:

- blood-borne infections
- sexual health
- your legal rights
- discrimination
- safe drug use
- detox / rehab options
- health care for users
- alternative medicine
- what to do if someone drops (CPR/EAR)

Plus we can refer you to other agencies that might be able to help you.

We also have a whole bunch of other helpful & interesting free stuff going on in the exchange, including:

- the latest Hep C info sessions – Thursdays 1pm - 3pm
- health & lifestyle stuff – Fridays 9am - 12 noon
- Welfare rights & assistance – Fridays 1.30pm - 2.30pm
- get involved as a volunteer! – ask at the exchange about our regular volunteer training
- ongoing activities, projects & training – ask at the exchange for details
- FREE bread, drinking water, & clothes – every day! Also fruit (Tuesday only), Hari Krishna food (most days).

So if you want to know more, or just want to chat, call us on (07) 3252 5390 business hours, or drop into 187 Brunswick St Fortitude Valley, or you can visit our website: <http://www.quivaa.org.au/> for more info as well.

And don't forget h.a.r.d.u.p, QuIVAA's RaveSafe project - see us in the Brunswick Street Mall on Friday nights, plus clubs and parties near you - just look for the fucken big Chupa-Chup!

water

The content of the original article that occupied this space was the subject of some discussion between QuIVAA staff and the people who fund us at Queensland Health. We had intended to discuss the impact of removing sterile water on the individual health outcomes of local users. However the people we spoke to have some editorial control over what is eventually published and they did make the observation that the original article was a biased account of the risks associated with alternative sources of water and that there

WHAT TYPE OF WATER DID YOU USE FOR YOUR LAST SHOT?

BOILED WATER	5 (6%)
BOILED KETTLE WATER	7 (9%)
TAP WATER	33 (42%)
STERILE INJECTING WATER	21 (27%)
SPRING WATER	6 (8%)
OTHER	6 (8%)

are many other factors that contribute to safer injecting. In all fairness they do have a valid point and the rewritten article will hopefully reflect a broader perspective that will more closely reflect those concerns and the reality of the situation.

In fact there is no such thing as a sterile injection, particularly in circumstances where the purity and chemical composition of the drug is uncertain, needles and syringes are reused, the absence of swabs and even the unavailability of a clean spoon (or whatever you use - I use a shot glass, but that could be just a personal wank) to mix up in and a safe place to shoot up. So Queensland Health is right in so far as they claim that the quality of the water is not the only issue to be considered when people who use drugs decide they want to shoot up safely.

It is true that, particularly at the moment, it is difficult to be sure about the quality of the drugs you get, but if you have a regular dealer you do have some degree of quality control. Clean hands, clean fits and plenty of swabs (that you can use on your hands and on the injecting site) will improve your chances of using relatively safely. Don't share your equipment - I know it's been said before, but we need to say it again folks.

Try not to use tap water - its just too dodgy - and whatever you do don't get water out of the toilet unless you have a death wish. No one should be that desperate, but if you are, you can grab a cup of filtered water from the QuIVAA Exchange or share the cost of water from the vending machine located in the NSP.

What do you do
to avoid a dirty
hit?

"Whats a dirty hit?"

"I always use
at home."

"We need our water so we
buy it from the water
machine."

"I must be doing the right
thing cause I an't ever had
one."

Here's what a few
of them had to say:

"I always get my equipment from
QuIVAA."

"This question
is crap."

"Certainly dont use the fucken
dirty tap water in the Valley."

"What will be will be.
Bad luck I guess."

"I live on the street how can I
avoid having a dirty hit
sometimes?"

"I swab eveything."

QuIVAA doesn't agree with the policy of removing sterile water from packs because it will have an adverse affect on some of the people who use our NSP. We will do our best to provide the water at the cheapest possible price through a vending machine located in the NSP and continue to advocate for the special needs of the people who use our service. Many of the people who use the QuIVAA NSP live on the streets and they are at much greater risk of septic injecting (this increases the risk of diseases such as septiceamia, endocarditis and site infections). We recognise that Queensland Health has a wider responsibility to fund a whole range of drug and alcohol projects and the NSPs are only one aspect of a much bigger picture. However we have an obligation to advocate for the people who use our NSP and no one can really blame us if we continue to do that.

In the meantime we'd just like to remind you that the bottled water you buy from shops (spring water, mineral water, distilled water, pure water) is definitely not sterile, and will probably contain just as much or sometimes even more bacteria than water out of the tap.

If you have a home, you can sterilise tap water or bottled water by boiling it in a clean pot/pan for at least 5 minutes (some sources recommend up to 20 minutes), covering it with a lid, and letting it cool before using. If you can't do that (or don't have half an hour to waste) use water that has recently been boiled in a kettle. This water will be about 99% bacteria-free, and is heaps cleaner than any water out of a bottle.

The best water for injecting remains a newly opened ampoule of sterile water if you can afford it. With the cost of sterile water, the temptation might exist to hang onto a water that you've only half-used. This is not a good idea because once the ampoule is opened bacteria can get in and begin to multiply. Always throw away any unused water from an ampoule when you're done.

h.a.r.d.u.p

Hepatitis C and Recreational Drug Users Project



R U **h.a.r.d.u.p** 4 FUN?

Whether your a funky junkie a go-go baby a part time popper and E-zy Rider or a once in the blue IDU (Injecting Drug User), sometimes boredom can make us take risks that will effect the rest of our lives. To help people avoid these risks, we have started a new project. From the people who brought you QuIVAA ravesafe, we introduce... **h.a.r.d.u.p** - the Hep C And Recreational Drug Users Project!

In this modern world of stress and strain, one age-old cure for feeling so up tight that you feel like our head is going to explode is a bit of FUN, in other words, a damn good party! We recognise this, so don't call us we'll come to you! Since Saturday night 2nd of September 2000 **h.a.r.d.u.p** has been takin' it to the streets, clubs and hot spots of the fortitude valley once a fortnight.

Hepatitis C is a blood borne virus that can really fuck up your liver (and quality of life) down the track (mark hee-hee). The problem is that unless you know the risks it can be extremely easy to contract, So Be Blood Aware! There's no need to panic, the right kind of information can make all the difference, and thats where we come in.

All our **h.a.r.d.u.p** volunteers are young party people who know where they're at. They are trained about Hep C healthy partying and safest methods of drug use.... and thats not all! We could not get our hands on any free steak knives, but we have heaps of other free stuff, like postcards flyers and info wallets (that actually look cool as well as being informative), stickers posters and the essential Chupa Chups.

Look out for us and our giant team mascot Daze~E dance bunny, we'll be hanging out to chat 2 U!

The word 'Volunteering' is rendered in a highly stylized, distressed font that looks like it's made of torn paper or cardboard. The letters are jagged and uneven, with some parts appearing to be layered or torn away. It is positioned in the upper left quadrant of the page.

The letters 'QWAA' are rendered in the same distressed, torn paper style as the word 'Volunteering'. They are positioned in the middle left quadrant of the page.

The word 'Work' is rendered in the same distressed, torn paper style. It is positioned in the lower left quadrant of the page.

What a crock of shit. No money, no recognition, some asshole bossing you around as though YOU'RE on the thirty thousand a year that they're raking in.

Why the hell would you do it?

Dependent users,
junkies, recreational, speed heroin,
pills,
hepatitis C, needle sweeps, post-
code, age....

DO YOU WANT MY FUCKING ADDRESS?

Coffee, sugar, tea, clean toilets, do
needle sweeps, cop shit at the
counter, take statistics, mop the floor,
work, go down the road, give shit at
the counter, work, 9-5, 1-5, 2-3, go
home, come back in, sleep in the
street, come back in, go home attempt
not to nod off in front of mummy, come
back in.

why would i volunteer ?

Support for you, friends, the feeling of helping, being helped, someone to talk too, something to offer, some new learning experiences, some qualified training opportunities, people to meet, things to do, catch up on old times, get some new skills, teach others about your skills, advocate on behalf of what you believe in, support others, swap stories about the good old days when you could still get alkaline rocks..... **VOLUNTEERING**

THE INHOUSE PROJECT

The InHouse Project is a new type of detox option that can assist some people who want to stop using heroin in their home. We offer emotional support, counselling and nursing care. Our InHouse staff include two Project officers - Pauline and Tanya and two Registered Nurses - Roxanne and Maree. An alternative therapy clinic operates in conjunction with the InHouse project.

Client Comments on InHouse Care

- The unconditional kindness of people is touching.
- The service is vital to my rehabilitation and I compliment everyone involved. I am now clean and intend to stay so.
- I think that QuIVAA and everyone involved in the project is great, but it really comes down to what the person really wants.
- Funding after detox care work would help as well.

If you would like any information, please contact the InHouse staff on 32525390. Take care and be safe.



THE UNIQUE ALTERNATIVE

Clinic 191 Has Reopened

The Clinic offers general health care to all, in a friendly, non-judgmental environment. It is staffed by Dr. Cindy Clayton and RN Marianne Heigge, who both have many years experience in the drug/alcohol area. The staff aims to provide a personalised analysis of your needs, and comprehensive treatment options. Looking after injectors' health, a QuIVAA initiative.

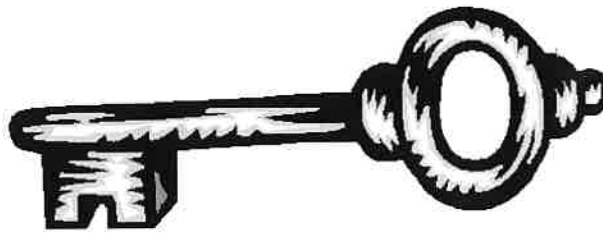
Opening Hours

Clinic 10:30am to Late Afternoon Mon -Fri
Closed between 1:00pm - 2:00pm for lunch

Closed Saturday and Sunday

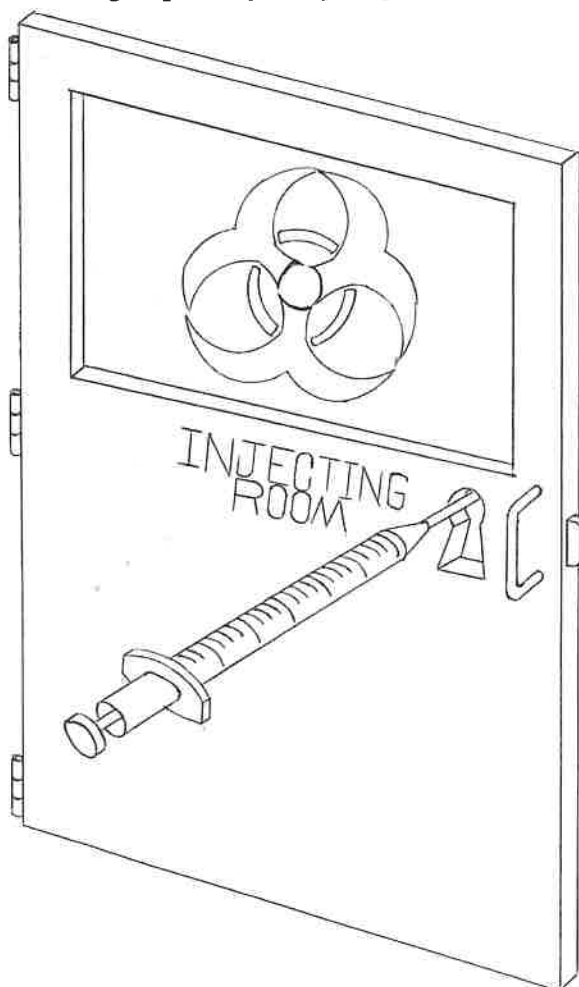


Getting the keys for a room.



Sydney Kings Cross is finally getting a legal medically supervised injecting room. Organisers claim that when it opens later this year the room will offer a clean injecting environment, treatment referral options, and exchange and of course medical supervision. This all sounds pretty cool to some people, and so it should, although, before we all march off to Mr Beattie's place demanding a room of our own, we need to ponder a little on just what injecting rooms are, and whose needs they really meet.

Despite all the hype, medically supervised injecting rooms need to be seen as only one out of a possible shit load of responses dealing with injecting issues. WE need reminding that the proposed room will only meet the needs of certain groups of injecting drug users.



There are a lot of issues that need addressing, like how are we going to ensure that the room(s) is safe for users free from stand over tactics and police surveillance? How are we going to deal with possible community hostility towards the room and the people who access it? Will the lack of user involvement in the design of the room make it too medical, too uncomfortable or just somewhere you wouldn't want to be?

Given the point that nothing else has seemed to have worked in the past, injecting rooms seem like a better solution than any others given a go so far.

QuIVAA's Position.

- 1) QuIVAA agrees in principle with the establishment of Safe Injecting Rooms as an element of a comprehensive range of strategies capable of minimising harm to Injecting Drug Users.
- 2) QuIVAA does not believe that Safe Injecting Rooms can be a stand-alone solution to the health issues of Injecting Drug Users in a particular area.
- 3) Safe Injecting Rooms must be established with the impact and support of local injecting drug users and must be sensitive and responsive to the cultural context in which local injectors use drugs.
- 4) The community debate regarding Safe Injecting Rooms should be conducted with a view to developing community awareness of Injecting Drug Use Issues and facilitating consensus on a range of strategies for supporting injecting drug users in quality of life enhancing choices.

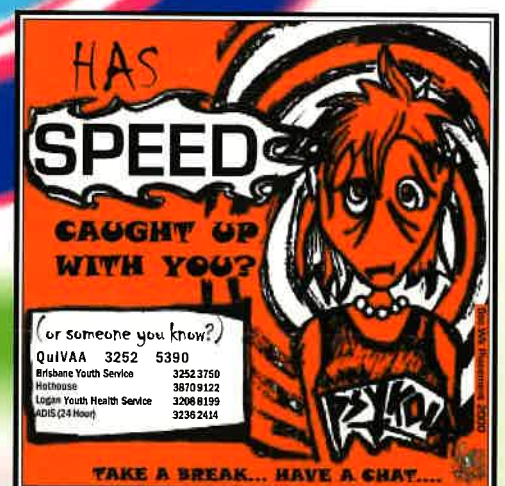
PSY



You have probably seen the new series of QuIVAA stickers featuring Psykoid, the soon to be psychotic speed head. Psykoid is a recent addition to the QuIVAA hall of fame, along side such trendy QuIVAA big names as Spoonman, Goo-eee Goanna, Reggie rave rat and Daze-E dance bunny.

At the moment psykoid appears in a series of 6 stickers, advertising some of the less appealing side effects of amphetamine use, such as hearing and seeing things that aren't there....and all the usual side effects that you have probably experienced if you have used a bit too much! You can pick up your very own copies of the stickers, through the QuIVAA

HARDUP team or through some of the local NSP (Needle Exchange). Unfortunately at the moment there are no fridge magnets, glossy posters, fluffy dice or other cheap tacky merchandise. But we'll see what we can do in the next six months.

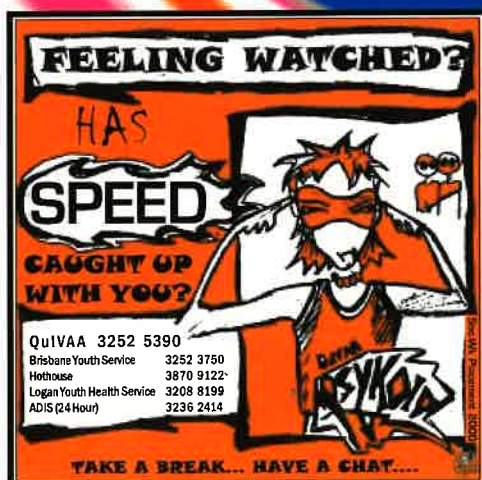


KOID

Psykoid is QuIVAA's latest feminist icon along with Daze~E dance bunny (Is it a coincidence that all the drug use icons are scanky boys? we girls just don't exist)

The idea for psykoid came about in a moment of blind panic when I started my social work placement and was told I had to come up with a resource project that addressed a current drug use issue. Believe it not the project began as an opiates and depression resource. However it was quickly diverted when everyone I spoke to as a student and a ravesafer was talking about the effects of speed and "Speed Psychosis" At the end of 3 months of community consultation psykoid made her debut and was whizzed off to the printers.

Stay tuned for more Psykoid show and tell.



Just say N2O

by QuIVAA RaveSafe & Gaseous Vertebrate

Lots of people are using nitrous oxide as a recreational drug in Brisbane these days. Also known as laughing gas or bulbs, nitrous oxide is used in the straight world as a dental anaesthetic, to whip cream, and make cars and bikes go faster. But what thousands of trippers worldwide also know and love is that laughing gas deeply enhances tripping, speeding & E-ing, as well as being an interesting drug effect in its own right.

There are two main ways that gas is used recreationally: bulbies, that is, whipped cream bulbs in a cream whipping machine; and cylinders, which come in three grades: engine, food, and medical. Bulbs are food grade. Obviously medical grade, such as used by dentists, is the best and safest way to use gas if you can get it, but its availability is of course restricted. If you happen to be able to get this type of nitrous oxide, then one of the main dangers associated with it is suffocation, but only if it is inhaled through a mask. Engine grade is very impure and should never be inhaled.

Descriptions of the effects of gas are as profound and varied as "True Consciousness", "Acknowledgment of Beauty", and "Deep Vibration", but the effect is fleeting - a typical bulbie rush lasts from a peak of 90 seconds to about a minute and half before the effect basically wears off. So people have a tendency to take more and more.

But there are other risks associated with nitrous use, and there are strategies that you can adopt to minimise harm. Whether from bulbies, or tanks, the gas is released under high pressure, and is therefore also very cold, and should never be inhaled directly from the machine. This is particularly true of cylinders. The high pressure can cause serious lung damage, and can literally freeze parts of your mouth or throat. Some people avoid this by first letting the gas into a balloon or plastic bag, which drops the pressure and temperature of the gas to a safe level. Food grade gas is impure, as examining the inside of a well used bulb machine will show, so its likely that the impurities will cause damage to your body over time.

Just say N2O

It's very easy to pass out momentarily while rushing on gas, so it's a good idea to first sit or lie down comfortably. Obviously gas should not be used whilst driving or operating machinery! Gas can suddenly drop inhibitions, so a safe and trusted environment can also be helpful. Breathing nitrous oxide for more than a few minutes at a time may bring on nausea, especially if you have just eaten. You may also feel hung over for some time after if you do a lot of gas.

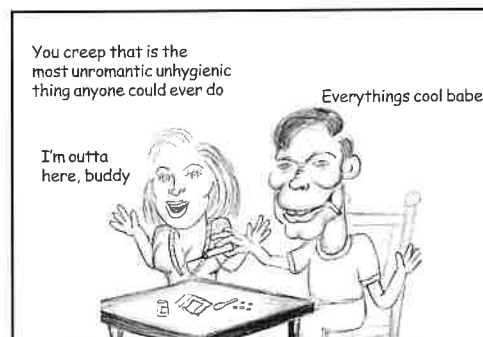
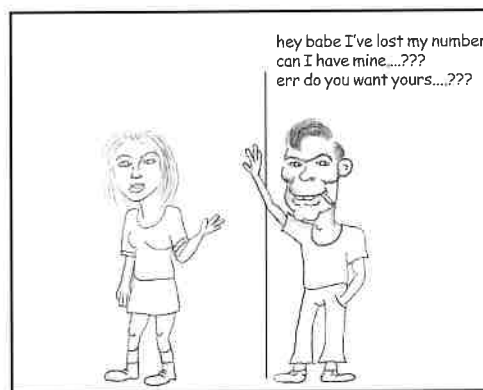
Doctors & dentists regard nitrous oxide as a safe medical drug. But there is some evidence that excessive or prolonged use can damage bone marrow and the nervous system by interfering with vitamin B-12. The neurological damage can be severe, but is usually only reported in people using massive amounts of gas daily over prolonged periods. So some people suggest therefore that if you are going to binge on nitrous, take mega doses of folic acid and B-12. There are also other numerous health risks associated with vitamin B-12 deficiency.

Check out:

<http://www.resort.com/~banshee/Info/N2O/nitrous.dangers.html> if you're on line and want to know more. Heaps more info of all sorts about gas can be found at:
http://www.erowid.org/experiences/subs/exp_Nitrous.shtml, and:
http://leda.lycaeum.org/Chemicals/Nitrous_oxide.388.shtml.

Respect. Love. Peace. Freedom. Beauty.

HARDUP HORATIO



Q
u

CONVO WITH DOOGIE

Can you tell me about your first time at QuIVAA?

I first came in to contact with QuIVAA through friends on the street. I'm not sure about the specifics of the time, but it was roughly 8-10 years ago, I'm 27 years old now. The first drug I tried I.V. was speed, the night of the Ramones, New Christs and Hard-Ons gig in 1988. I had a 1/3 of a gram of speed and straight after injecting felt like my heart was going to jump out of my chest. A feeling I have never been able to replicate. I went pale from the rush and paced around in circles.

Why do you come to QuIVAA?

It's a safe place to chill out and get off the streets, which can be quite mentally and physically taxing. There is always a couch to rest on and a cup of coffee and understanding people to talk to. The free food is great because, like most active drug users, I spend my last dollars and cents on drugs before feeding myself. An unfortunate reality of my life as a user.

How can QuIVAA improve its services?

For the ridiculously tight budget that the organisation is on I think the services offered are fantastic and am not sure how things can be made better, except perhaps the organisation can be more active in asking users for feedback about it's services. The services offered are heaps better than those offered by some other exchanges because it is run by users, non-users and ex-users and does not have the "we can save you" approach.

A
A

My Brilliant Career

Anon

RESUME

HOBBIES:-

- *Caffeine
- *Alcohol
- *Marijuana
- *Cocaine
- *Mushrooms(magic)
- *LSD(acid)
- *Amyl Nitrate
- *Speed
- *Ecstasy
- *Nitrous Oxide (cream bulbs)
- *Heroin
- *Rohypnol
- *Valium
- *Serapax
- *Mogodon
- *Rivatriol
- *Xanax
- *Normison
- *Methadone

Previous Experience:-

This list follows that path of my brilliant career. The items are listed in order of appearance in my life. This is an incomplete list, because there are some benzos that I can't remember the names of. The items on this list have consumed much of my time, and effort spent on getting them. They have cost me a great deal of money, robbed me of my self-esteem, my pride and any feeling of security or stability. They have also helped me experience some of the best times of my life. They have opened my mind in many ways. They have humbled me and also given me greater empathy towards the plight of others. They have at times given me super human strength not always a good thing!). They have made me street smart, and finally and most importantly, they have helped make me who I am today!



THE ANCIENT OATH

WE ARE THE DARKNESS, THE TERROR BY NIGHT
BROUGHT FORTH FROM THE WOMB OF DESPAIR
UNSEEN AND FORMLESS
WE POISON YOUR DREAMS, DISTURBING UNCERTAIN FEARS

WE ARE THE PESTILENCE, THAT WAIT AT DAYBREAK
THE INFECTED FRUIT OF HUMAN FEARS
RIPENED BY LUST, WE HUNGER, HUNGER WITH MALICE
RAVAGING YOUR WHISPERED CRIES

WE ARE THE CORRUPTION, WORSHIPPED IN VIOLENCE
AND THE DARK BLOOD ALL OVER THE EARTH
FULFILLED IN DESTRUCTION, WE FEED FROM WITHIN

WE ARE THE PROMISED DEATH!

DIE WITH HONOUR AND RESPECT!

WRITTEN BY
BROWNIE AND DAVE

MANGY SCREWS

I CANT SLEEP THROUGH THE NIGHT,
BECAUSE OF A SHINING BRIGHT LIGHT.
IS IT DEATH? OR IS IT A SIGN?
OF ANOTHER BEGINNING OR AM I GOING THROUGH TIME?

EVERY DAY SEEMS THE SAME
COULD IT BE FROM THE HEART-ACHE AND STRAIN
FROM THE CONFUSION THAT LURKS MY BRAIN
FROM THE INHUMAN GAMES THEY PLAY
THAT MAKE THEM FEEL NOBLE AND GAME

AND WHEN THEIR TOGETHER THEIR AS GAME AS CAN BE
BUT WHEN THEIR ALONE YOU CAN SQUASH THEM LIKE PEAS
THEIR THE UGLIEST MOTHER FUCKERS THAT I EVER SEEN
WITH THEIR BIG POINTY EARS AND SO MANY FLEAS
AND THEY USUALLY CRAWL ON THEIR KNEES

BUT FUCK I HATE WHEN THEY SEARCH YOUR SLOT
THEY SNIFF AND THEY SCRATCH AND THEY LICK THE BRASCO PIT
WHAT REALLY GETS ME IS WHEN THEY LEAVE
YOU LAY ON YOUR BED AND ITS JUMPING WITH FLEAS
THEN YOU HEAR THEIR BRAKING SNOUTS
AS THEIR SCRATCHING TO YOUR BUDDY'S CELL



BY BRAD BROWN



MISS HEROIN!

So now little man you've grown tired of grass
all that damn acid, that cocaine and hash.
And someone pretending that he is your friend
said "I've introduced you to Miss Heroin".
Well honey before you start fooling with me
just let me tell you of how it will be.
For I will seduce you and make you my slave
believe me, I've sent stronger men to their grave.
You think you could never become a disgrace
and end up addicted to poppy-seed waste.
You start by experimenting one afternoon
and end up asleep in my arms very soon.
Then once I have entered deep in your veins
the craving will drive you nearly insane.
You'll need lots of money as you have been told
for darling, I'm more expensive than gold.
You'll swindle your mother just for a buck
and turn into someone who's vile and corrupt.
You'll mug and you'll steal for the narcotic charms
then feel so content when I'm in your arms.
Then you'll realize the monster inside you has grown
and you'll solemnly swear to leave me alone.
But if you think that it's easy and that you've got the knack
then sweetie try getting me off your back.
The vomit, the cramps, your gut in a knot
the jangling nerves screaming for just one more shot.
The hot chill, the cold sweat, the withdrawal pains
can only be sawed by my little white grains.
So now you return (just as I foretold)
and I know that you'll give me your body and soul.
You'll give me your morals, your conscience, your heart
and now you are mine till death do us part!

In memory of Luke Heatley

Blood sister



The losing player shoots speed with her last
dirty syringe,
capping the seven sharp days of the uncreation
binge.

Late in the night, cock hard, head spinning,
heart stilled,
body and mind fought for the love-lust,
struggled, and killed.

The suicidal religion transubstantiates victims
to virus,
while shit and filthy slime are solemnly served
at the beggars' eucharist.
Loners and losers limp forward, ignorant of
their inanity,
to meagerly sup at the high-price whore-trough
of fixated insanity.

Alone with myself, sister, no one is there,
but the babbling mentalities that stifled our air.
The absurdity of life! The tragedy of love!
Religion and science fail.
All is nothing, dust lost from some distant
galaxy's trail.

Heroin

the whole world is a-fire, a-flooded
awash in tidal waves, white but bloodied,
cold flames like needles pierce it hard and
deep,
like Hell's ice, they burn but do not move,
asleep.

I am the one who must make the choice
who else will sing my song, speak with my
voice?

if I try to die someone may see me
but if I keep on dying only I can free me

sometimes it's too painful to live in hell
so I sleep with heroines, I'm so spiritually lazy.
it hurts so much, sometimes I'm crazy
is it better than dying, having a soul to sell?

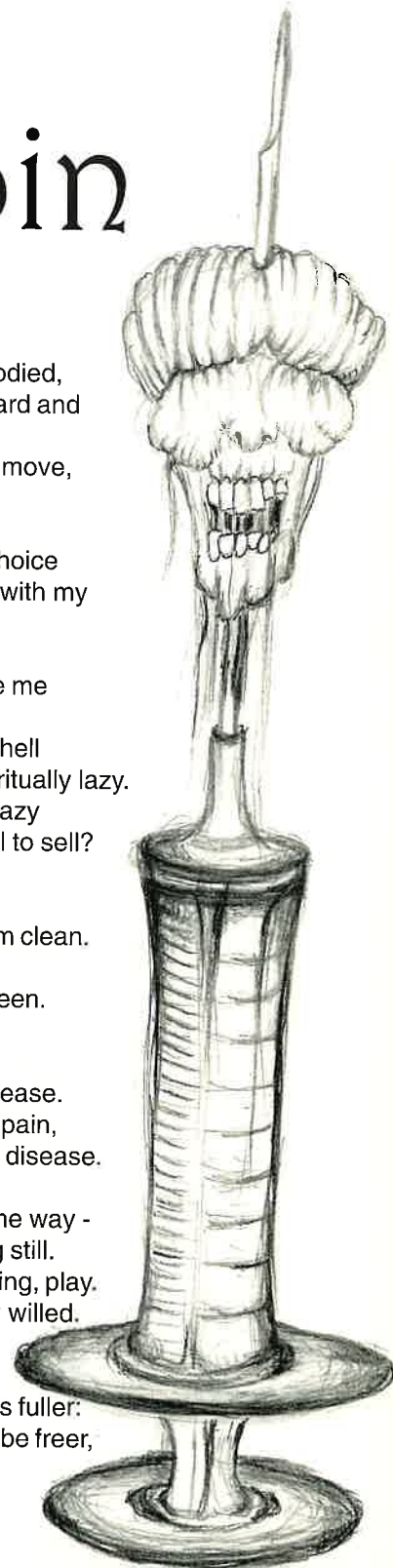
I don't want to be a slave:
I can see everything changing if I am clean.
I've played before at being brave,
I've felt alive with what could have been.

One day soon I might feel it again.
do you know why I use? ask me, please.
it's an interim treatment for chronic pain,
until the therapy itself becomes the disease.

I must learn to release my pain some way -
don't ask me how, for I'm struggling still.
I've tried meditation, sacrifice, working, play.
All I know is it must be consciously willed.

beyond this wall of pain and fear
is love and freedom, and a life that is fuller:
withdrawal ain't so bad, suffering to be freer,
it's relapse baby, that's the killer.

-I.S.







Methadone Madness

As you can see from the following table, Australia has more people on methadone, per head of population than any other country.

Country Number of Methadone Patients

Australia	23,000 - 25,000 (Jan 2000)
Austria	3,100 (1999)
Belgium	6,000 (January 2000)
Canada	12,000 (1999)
Hong Kong	7,500 - 8,000 (1999)
Croatia	3,000 - 4,000 (Jan 2000)
Czech Republic	74 (as of Jan 18, 2000)
Denmark	4,900 (October 1999)
Estonia	5 (January 2000)
Germany	40,000 - 45,000 (Jan 2000)
Great Britain	18,000 - 20,000 (1999)
Greece	650 (As of Jan 21, 2000)
Ireland	3,750 (May 1999)
Israel	1,200 (1998)
Italy	60,000 - 70,000 (1999)
Latvia	90 (January 2000)
New Zealand	3,000 - 3,500 (Jan 2000)
Netherlands	11,000 - 12,000 (1999)
Slovenia	1,240 (as of Dec 31, 1999)
Spain	50,000 - 55,000 (1999)
Switzerland	12,000 - 15,000 (Jan 2000)
United States	179,329 (Dec 31, 1998)

I am starting up a Methadone User Group. Our main aims are - Dispensing Fees, Contamination of Methadone with juice, Methadone in Jails, and Takeaway polices.

The cost for people on methadone differs from place to place. It is \$3.50 per day in Queensland, \$5 per day in Melbourne and \$8 dollars per day in Sydney. People on welfare have a safety net of \$150 P.A.. for medication, script costs, however because its called a dispensing fee, methadone costs between \$1000 and \$3000 P.A..

Basically they are saying, we can't be trusted to take our own medication. I know some people will screw up - but surely people who prove they are stable could get their Done on script once a month or similar.

People on Morphine maintenance get better deals with takeaways. On the subject of takeaway. Only in Queensland

are the T.A's contaminated with juice. This basically makes the dose a Blind Dose and its proved methadone and juice after 24hrs can go off. As most people know 50% of people on Done hit up. By putting juice in the methadone, it is only making it far more dangerous. It does not stop people from hitting up just means more filters are given out with the butterflies.

We plan to work with the methadone clinics, in relation to this issue.



I have a petition I put up at QuIVAA stating this - (I got 87 signatures in 2 weeks).

We want a better deal for people who have done the right thing and got on methadone, for fees, takeaways, and contamination. We also want Methadone provided for people in jail who are already on it.

Join my group. See me at QuIVAA I already have 40 members - lets stick together for people power.

Regard Peter

In April 1993 at the Cairns Magistrates Court yours truly was given 6 months jail for supplying syringes to his girl friends. Justice far North Queensland style. More news next edition.

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DUNES - Gold Coast
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Miami
(07) 5520 7900
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QuIVAA - Brisbane
185 Brunswick St
Fortitude Valley
(07) 3252 5390
Clinic 191, Needle &
Syringe Program

BIALA - Brisbane
270 Roma St
Brisbane City
(07) 3238 4040
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(07) 3229 3767 or
1800 648 491

QLD AIDS COUNCIL
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(07) 3017 1777
Needle & Syringe Program
4 Carrol Street, Nambour
(07) 5441 1222
Needle & Syringe Program
Level 2 Trust House
3070 G. Coast Hwy,
Surfers Paradise
(07) 5575 6966

AIDS MEDICAL UNIT
2nd Floor, 270 Roma Street
Brisbane (07) 3224 5526

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Slacks Creek (07) 3208 8199

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(07) 5531 7833

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Royal Brisbane Hospital
(07) 3253 8704

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