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power to something "higher" than myself (if need be the group), isolating myself from family and friends who aren't "clean" and that because I am addicted to cocaine I am automatically addicted to all drugs. I advocate for a harm reduction approach to drug addiction. According to the Harm Reduction Coalition: "Harm reduction is a set of practical strategies that reduce negative consequences of drug use, incorporating a spectrum of strategies from safer use to managed use to abstinence. Harm reduction strategies meet drug users where they're at, addressing conditions of use along with the use itself."

It has been eight years since I last used cocaine. In that time I have earned a GED, graduated from Portland State University with a 3.9 grade point average and become an activist, writer, performer and filmmaker—including a nationwide tour with the Sex Workers' Art Show—all while using alcohol moderately and smoking marijuana.

Cocaine was a major problem for me, and I believe I have stayed abstinent from cocaine because of changes in my life. For example, the processes of casting off the stigma and hate that have been perpetrated on me as a junkie ho, connection with community and love of family, learning multiple histories and oppression theory and applying it to my life, and most of all living through art and writing for survival.

Read my chapbooks online and contact me at www.confluere.com.

LESLIE BULL
Vancouver, Wash.

Glenn Scofield Williams responds: *The photo was based on the interview of one user and a documentary on meth use in which users applied heat to the meth and water solution. The use of heat, as I have learned since, is not always used and is not necessary for its melting. I can only assume the users who do this apply it out of habit or comfort, as a way to reduce the shock to the system.*

None of the treatment centers in the article are 12-step oriented. Only Crystal Meth Anonymous is 12-step. The others use drug treatment techniques such as one-on-one and group counseling, detox and in-house treatment. The only real necessity for kicking meth is a solid support system, whatever that may mean to the user. If users can get that support without a 12-step or treatment plan, they can be successful. But it's rare.

Help is out there

TO THE EDITOR:

As an interviewee for the article by writer Glenn Scofield Williams in your Oct. 17 issue, I would like to provide a minor correction to an item mentioned. No crystal meth was used in my suicide attempt in February. I have not used crystal meth since Feb. 11, 2001.

I am pleased to see that the gay community is addressing the use of crystal meth. I was interviewed for the article because I want the gay community to know there is help for them out there. My purpose for participating in the interview was to provide knowledge about recovery meetings of Crystal Meth Anonymous in the Portland area.

If anyone would like to contact me for further information about recovery, addiction or support, I can be reached at 503-816-7417 or RHuxhold@aol.com. If anyone wants to stop

using crystal meth, please come to a CMA meeting. You are welcome, wanted and needed.

National meeting schedules are available at www.crystalmeth.org. Here are the local meeting schedules:

- **A New Day Has Come:** 8 to 9:30 p.m. Mondays, Meeting Room West, Medical Office Building, Emanuel Hospital, 501 N. Graham St., Portland.

- **Last House on the Block:** 8 to 9:30 p.m. Thursdays, Lorenzo Center, Emanuel Hospital, 301 N. Graham St., Portland.

- **Survivors:** 8 to 9:30 p.m. Fridays, Downstairs, 401 E. 10th St., The Dalles.

RON HUXHOLD
Portland

What recovery?

TO THE EDITOR:

Daily, the contradiction between reality and the media myth that we are enjoying a "jobless" recovery is becoming more obvious. Companies are increasing their profits by decreasing the price of labor through layoffs, having more employees at part-time hours to cut back on full-time benefits and demanding increased productivity with the threat of a pink slip.

I am one of many in the ever-expanding service sector who deals with the triple burden of keeping a high level of productivity while working less than 40 hours and barely earning enough to live on, let alone to think about vacations, health care or savings. In addition, I have to work a "flexible"—i.e., chaotic—work schedule that changes on a weekly basis.

Instead of blaming immigrants in this coun-

try and workers in other countries for the disappearance of American jobs and the lowering of wages, I blame the world economy of capitalism, which prioritizes profits before people. This economy uses "free trade" agreements that export jobs to countries where labor and environmental standards are the lowest internationally. The hardest hit by these practices include women and people of color; just look at the example of the maquiladoras.

Here in the United States, African Americans have almost twice the unemployment rate of whites. All of us need a world economy that prioritizes the needs of people—one that plans production and distribution so that no one goes hungry and everyone can thrive. That economy is international socialism.

EMMA ALLEN
Radical Women



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