

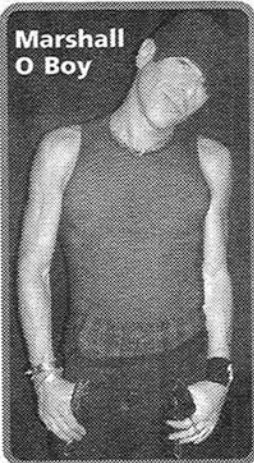


Punks Bash 'Tina

By Joseph S. Amster

Alternative/Punk band Marshall O Boy & The Well Hungarians have joined in the battle against Crystal Methamphetamine abuse in the LGBT community by forming a new grassroots organization called Friends Helping Friends Quit Crystal Meth (FHFQCM).

"We are not pointing fingers—we're not lecturing" lead singer and founder Marshall O Boy stated after a recent show. "Nor are we trying to force anyone into programs, but for those who have decided that crystal meth is no longer for them, we want to provide a fun and loving environment where they can wean themselves off and begin their road to recovery."



**Marshall
O Boy**

These "environments" will be concerts and events atypical of 12-step programs and their sterile support-group meetings. "Recovery shouldn't have to be boring," continues O Boy. "My friends and I are infamous for knowing how to have a good time. Some of my friends have already come forward and told me of the trouble they are having quitting the drug—how it's destroying their lives. They point blank asked for help. As their friend and a member of the community, how could I, how could we, say no? Friends Helping Friends is our combined, organized response."

O Boy was moved to start FHFQCM after attending a town hall meeting moderated by West Hollywood Mayor John Duran and convened to explore the problem of meth addiction in the community. The meeting highlighted the need for social options and for the community movers and shakers to step up to the plate and speak out, especially club promoters and "20-something" youth. "No one can accuse me of being part of the establishment," O Boy jokes. "Nor do I think I'm necessarily the best man for the job, but for a long while I've inhabited the nether worlds of gay politics and club-life." He doesn't expect this will be a popular move to begin with, and feels that this is going to scare a lot of people. He knows that "for now, I accept that I'm going to be 'singing solo,' but not unlike the first dancer on the dance floor, I believe the dance floor will fill up quickly. The fact that the band and other activists are jumping onboard without hesitation is encouraging. The need for a group like FHFQCM to tackle this problem is obvious. I think this is going to takeoff rapidly and I look forward to being a voice in the choir, the first of many. The goal is to take an uncomfortable subject and make it fun and sexy."

FHFQCM is in its planning stages. Volunteers from all walks of life are needed. Drug experts, AIDS organizations, club promoters, venues, bands and entertainers are encouraged to contact Chris Sheridan at FriendsHelpingFriendsQuitCM@yahoo.com. For more information, go to www.oboys.org and click on the New Events page.