

A Northern Ontario drug addict's true story

(This is the third in a series of articles prepared for the News by the Addiction Research Foundation, or ARF. The series is based upon an interview with a typical Northern Ontario drug abuser).

By Ken Moffatt (Thunder Bay) and Dennis Bernardi (Timmins) of ARF.

In the first part of this series we gained some insight into a 12-year-old's initiation into the street drug scene and his evolution to drug dealer.

In part two, we learned how Bob (not his real name) administered the drugs and what effect they had on him.

In part three, we continue to see the type of lifestyle Bob had under the influence.

ARF: This might be an unfair question, but can you describe a typical day during your drug-using years?

Bob: Sure. I would get up in the morning to go to work. I'd go to work on acid or speed, and do (take) whatever I had- mescaline, speed, acid- and I'd go to work.

During the day I would do a little bit of dope to keep myself up. I'd keep myself high all the time. A lot of people who knew me and didn't know I was using dope couldn't tell I was using it. I knew I was stoned but they couldn't tell because I'd do my job and nobody would notice.

ARF: You mean it didn't affect your job in any way in the sense of making you less able to perform your responsibilities?

Bob: Well, let's say I was a little

dangerous in some jobs I did. Sometimes I was a little spaced out but the people I was working with on some jobs knew me and they kept an eye on me. You don't have the same reflexes or reactions you would have if you're straight. I'd do my job but for awhile at the end there I was kinda burnt out.

ARF: Who noticed that you were under the influence of drugs when you were working?

Bob: Well, a lot of my buddies knew because most of them were buying drugs. They knew I was stoned and they were stoned themselves. The foreman couldn't tell. It happened to me a few times coming to work that I was really wiped, hardly able to walk at all.

Well, then they knew something was wrong with me but they couldn't tell if I had been drinking or whatever. They'd just send me home.

ARF: I guess during those years it would have been easier to see if you were drinking. The alcohol is so easy

to notice on the breath if you're close enough to the person using it.

Bob: Well that's it. When I was doing dope and going to work I'd usually take something that would stimulate me, not something that would space me out. I'd do something that would bring me up, not something organic like mescaline which makes you kind of wobbly. I'd usually do the stimulants and when you're stoned all the time they can't tell the difference because they've never seen you straight.

ARF: They never saw you straight so they had a difficult time seeing you were on drugs. So I guess one way to summarize these years is to call them the fun years in that you knew what you were doing, you knew what kinds of drugs you wanted to take in given parts of the day and knew the effect you wanted to achieve. In effect, it sounds like during the fun years you had control of the situation, you had control of the dope.

Bob: Yeah, most of the time. I'd

lose control a few times, but I knew I had to have control. I'd make sure I'd be okay but if you'd see me at night at the bar or at home, well then...I had no control.

ARF: Would you change your drug taking when you got home, would it be different drugs you'd take from those you took when you were at work?

Bob: No, I'd just do more of it. I could go for three or four days without sleeping. I'd just keep going to work, partying, going to work, then after about three or four days I'd get burnt out, the dope wouldn't be picking me up anymore so I had to slack off and sleep awhile. So I did downers and smoked a lot to help me down.

ARF: So the drugs became in effect sort of a series of buttons that you turned in order to get certain effects to guide you around.

Bob: Right.

For more information call ARF at 622-0607 or Narcotics Anonymous at 344-4357.

PUBLIC NOTICE

TO ALL SNOWMOBILE USERS

The snowmobile season is approaching and we wish to emphasize the safety aspects of this sport.

Many roads in our area used by snowmobiles have gates or cable barriers which could result in injury or death to careless snowmobile operators and damage to their snowmobiles.

We wish to remind all those who might use roads in the area of these potential hazards and emphasize the need for care and common sense in snowmobiling.

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TODAY'S CHILD

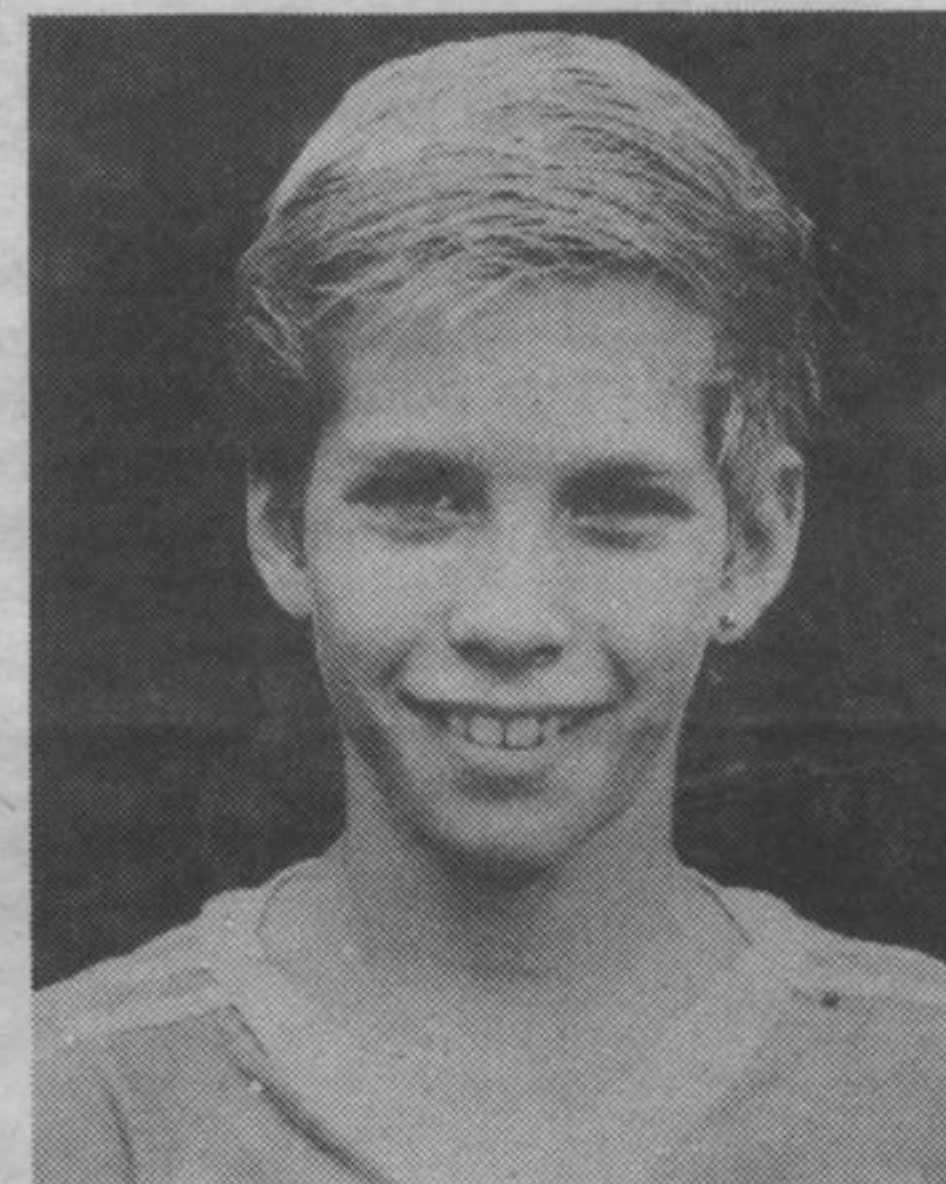
by JUDITH ADAMS

Grant thinks he might like to be the only child in his adoptive family, or perhaps have a younger brother or sister or a brother much older than he is. Grant is twelve, and a very likeable, interesting person.

He's friendly and that nice grin is never very far away, so he has good friends, but at the same time Grant is something of a loner, and loves to spend time to himself writing and illustrating his story books. So far he's produced over twenty of these, all of them imaginative adventures and make-believe characters that show a lot of depth and humour.

Grant is getting that independent streak that happens to pre-teens, and he likes to have lots of space. He's a creative, thoughtful sensitive boy. He needs parents who can share his past with him and recognize that friends and foster family will go on being important to him after he is adopted.

Sports are high on Grant's list of interests, especially soccer, baseball and T-Ball. He likes skating but not hockey,



and loves riding his new bike, a birthday present this spring. He'll be going into grade six this fall. He's an average student with that outstanding interest in writing that may point the way to his future occupation. If you think you may be the parents who can welcome Grant into your family and cherish him for himself, please write Today's Child, Box 888, Station K, Toronto. Describe your family and your interests as fully as you can, and include your address and telephone number in your letter.

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Tea

The Royal Canadian Legion Branch 223 Ladies' Auxiliary held their Annual Remembrance Day tea and bake sale on Nov. 1 with a fair attendance.

The door prize was donated by G. and G. Hair Stylists and it was won by Joel Kenney.

Raffle Prizes: A baby quilt made by Lil Belliveau was won by Dot Coupal. A cake made by Judy Simmons was won by Marie Dobush.

President Beaulieu would like to extend "thanks" to all the ladies that donated baked goods, worked in the kitchen and anyone who helped in any way.

This type of event is not possible without your help and co-operation and the auxiliary needs you.

The next general meeting will be at 8 p.m. sharp on Nov. 24. At this meeting, the nominations for election of officers for 1987 will be held.

In order to keep the auxiliary active in this community, all those on the membership are urged to do their part, so please make an effort to attend.

Shirley Love, Publicity, Ladies' Auxiliary