

THE DARK SIDE OF THE SPOON

OR HOW TO SURVIVE YOUR PARENTS DISCOVERING YOU'RE A DRUG USER

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LINNELL 93

IN AN IDEAL WORLD, PARENTS WOULD TALK OPENLY WITH THEIR CHILDREN ABOUT THE USE OF DRUGS...



IN REAL LIFE WHEN THEY SAY... HAVE YOU BEEN TAKING DRUGS? THEY WANT YOU TO SAY



ON DISCOVERING THEIR CHILD IS USING DRUGS YOUR PARENTS WILL OVERREACT!



THEY WILL GET ANGRY, FRIGHTENED AND ANXIOUS



A SENSIBLE ADVICE LEAFLET WOULD TELL YOUR PARENTS TO STAY CALM. THIS ADVICE IS ABOUT AS MUCH USE AS A ONE LEGGED MAN AT AN ARSE KICKING PARTY..



IT IS OFTEN THE CASE THAT EVEN WHEN A USER IS IN A REAL MESS AND ILL THROUGH THEIR DRUG USE, THE STRESS CAUSED TO THE MOTHER CAN MAKE HER MORE ILL THAN HER CHILD.



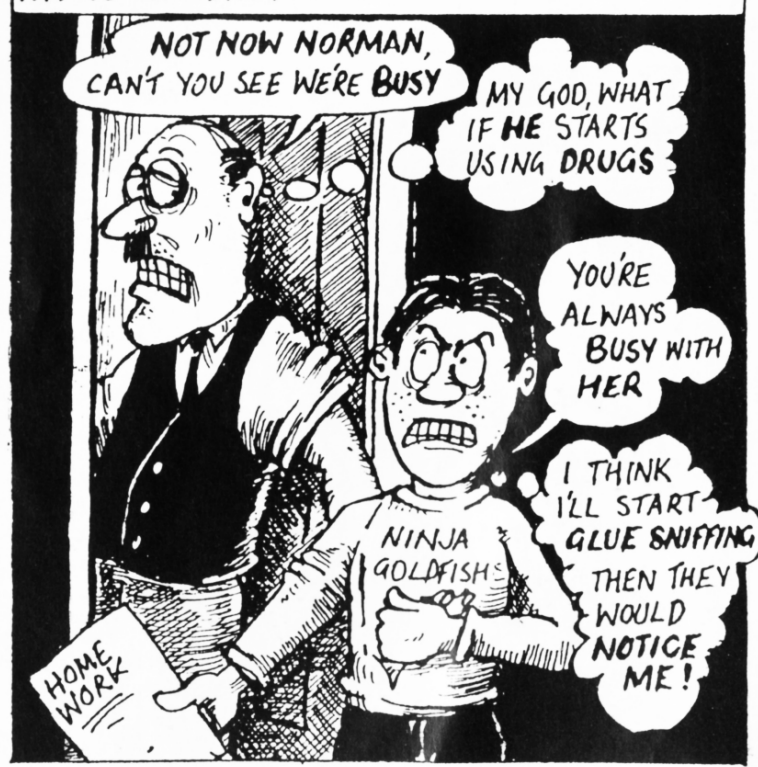
PARENTS OFTEN FEEL THAT THEIR SON OR DAUGHTER HAVE LOST ALL THEIR POTENTIAL, BECAUSE THEY USE DRUGS.



IT IS OFTEN THE CASE THAT FATHERS CANNOT COPE WITH THE SITUATION, AND 'SWITCH OFF'.



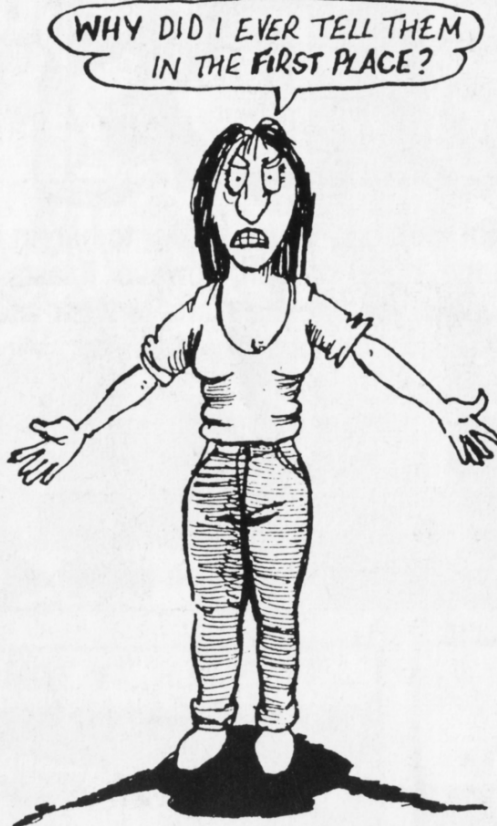
YOUNGER BROTHERS OR SISTERS CAN FEEL RESENTFUL OF ALL THE ATTENTION THE PARENTS PAY TO THE DRUG USER.



THE REVELATION THAT A FAMILY MEMBER IS A DRUG USER SOMETIMES OPENS UP SO MANY OLD WOUNDS THAT THE FAMILY COLLAPSES.



THIS LEAVES THE USER, FEELING NOTHING BUT GUILT...



THERE WILL BE A LOT GOING ON IN YOUR PARENTS' HEADS, THEY MAY FEEL VERY ISOLATED.



IF YOU ARE USING CANNABIS, THEY THINK YOU WILL GO ON TO USE HEROIN.



IF YOU ARE USING HEROIN, THEY THINK YOU ARE SLEEPING WITH THE DEVIL.

THEY MAY WORRY ABOUT YOU STEALING FROM THEM.

THEY WORRY ABOUT YOUR HEALTH DETERIORATING



THEY MAY TRY AND GET THE POLICE TO ARREST YOU OR TRY SOMETHING ELSE IN A DESPERATE ATTEMPT TO STOP YOU USING.



THEY WILL PROBABLY SEEK PROFESSIONAL ADVICE, BY VISITING THEIR FAMILY DOCTOR.



SOME PARENTS ARE HELPED BY VISITING A PROFESSIONAL LIKE A SOCIAL WORKER, DRUG COUNSELLORS OR PSYCHIATRIST. OTHERS ARE NOT...



THEY MAY JOIN A SELF HELP GROUP OF OTHER PARENTS, WHERE THEY CAN GO AND SHARE THEIR EXPERIENCES.



IN MY CASE, THEY STOPPED BLAMING THEMSELVES, FOR MY DRUG TAKING. THEY REALISED IT WAS ME, AND ONLY ME, WHO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR WHAT I TAKE... UNFORTUNATELY!



PARENTS CAN BE SUPPORTIVE AND HELPFUL, IF YOU WANT ADVICE ON TALKING TO THEM ABOUT YOUR DRUG USE. CALL YOUR LOCAL DRUG SERVICE (BACK PAGE).