



PROJECT G

NEWSLETTER

www.ProjectGHB.org

What you don't know can kill you.

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Newsletter 12-07

GHB IN TOYS (AQUA DOTS)---WHO WOULD HAVE THUNK IT???

By Trinka Porrata

I am personally NEVER surprised at where GHB and its analogs GBL, BD, etc., pop up! Seeing the GHB analog BD turn up in Aqua Dots/Bindeez toys was shocking but not totally.

I've heard of it in some strange places over the years. Right now GHB addicts are telling each other that BD is contained in another cosmetic product that they are consuming. We are trying to verify that information. Perhaps you remember the Once Removed Nail Polish Remover syndrome a few years ago. OR was a supposedly "legitimate" product (never used by any woman that we know of for purposes of polish remover due to its high cost) in pharmacies nationwide, being consumed by the case by GHB addicts. We were able to get that product off the market, but similar junk pops up now and then. GBL and BD are not essential chemicals in the cosmetic world.

Meanwhile, be very careful about returning the Aqua Dots or Bindeez kits to any place other than where you purchased them, as some may pull scams in order to get their hands on them for abuse purposes, strange as that may seem to you. GHB abusers willingly risk overdose, complications and death every time they take a sip, so this is no real surprise.

See news articles:

<http://www.foxnews.com/story/0,2933,309598,00.html>
http://machinist.salon.com/blog/2007/11/08/aqua_dots/
<http://cruftbox.com/blog/archives/001442.html>
<http://www.cpssc.gov/cpsscpub/prerel/prhtml08/08074.html>

NOTE: The company claimed that BD (1,4 butanediol) was "accidentally" used instead of the intended chemical, 1,5 pentanediol (PDO) which they claim is "harmless." In the first place, BD is about one fourth the cost of PDO, which most probably explains the switch. None of the news media has made any effort to verify the claim of PDO being "harmless," but rather have taken the word of the company at fault. In fact, I can find no evidence that pentanediol has been deemed "harmless." Instead, there simply is very

little info about it and thus it hasn't been deemed safe or unsafe!!! The MSDS (Material Safety Data Sheet) info on it says "unknown" or "no data" for most categories. In fact, this one lists it as a "suspected neurotoxin." So much for "harmless" for ingestion.

http://www.scorecard.org/chemical-profiles/summary.tcl?edf_substance_id=111-29-5

DECEMBER 9 AT 7 P.M.---A SPECIAL TIME TO REMEMBER THEM

In memory of children, families and friends—lives lost before they lived to fulfill their hopes and dreams. Keep the spirit of loved ones alive by uniting across American to light a candle at this designated time, 7 p.m. on December 9, as a tribute to all who have died from drug abuse issues and all who infinitely grieve the tragic loss of a child or loved one and all who continue the struggle with GHB addiction and withdrawal and all who have fought to bring the truth about GHB to light. This is done in the hope of preventing future deaths and addiction.

http://www.compassionatefriends.org/2007_WCL/2007_WCL_Intro.htm
<http://www.mattisonsrainbow.com/REMEMBER%20MY%20CHILD.pdf>

CHRISTMAS IS COMING---TIME TO ORDER & SUPPORT US

Christmas is a great time to purchase our brochures, booklets, Power Point presentations and books and utilize them as Christmas presents. Got a family member or friend who teaches? How about one of our "Drug ID & Symptoms Guide" books and/or a Power Point presentation to add to their presentations and knowledge? Got a son or daughter or niece or nephew in college? Great time to supply them a batch of brochures and booklets to pass out to their friends to bring about awareness and prevention. We also have black polo shirts with the Project GHB embroideries logo, not just purple as shown on the website. And, we have Project GHB mugs (nice large size) for \$5 not listed on the website. Contact Trinka if interested in the mugs at Equus555@att.net.

Project GHB has no regular source of funding. We need your support through purchases and/or donations to survive. Needless to say, we had to purchase a quantity of our books about GHB addiction (G'd Up 24/7) that we are now selling. Funds are needed to complete that initial debt and, most importantly, we need to get the books into the hands of those who need them most, from addicts and relatives/ friends to jails & treatment centers & ERs and even libraries. It is a great time to purchase one to donate to your local jail, ER, treatment facility or library.

Also, donations, even \$5 or \$10, are always greatly appreciated. The last time we asked for help, only two people responded and they were two people who regularly help us. It's hard to do what we do and what we need to do without some financial backing. Even just maintaining the website costs money. Your support is needed. We are working to update and revitalize the website in the near future.

NOTE: Please visit the TRAGEDIES page to see the first step toward our new look.

AMAZON.COM ALSO HELPS US IF YOU GO THROUGH OUR LINK

Remember too that AMAZON.COM has much, much more now than just books. It's a great place to shop for Christmas or whenever. And, no matter what type of products you order.....If you go to www.projectghb.org FIRST and at the bottom of the home page click on the amazon.com link, Project GHB benefits a little from each purchase. BUT, it works only if you go through the link on our page.

Also, if you purchase law enforcement related books via Law Tech Publishing, we benefit IF you go through their link on our website (bottom of the page).

Both are great ways to help us just a little!! Project GHB has no actual funding base, so we depend on every little donation we can get and on purchase of our brochures/hats, etc., so that we can keep them in supply.

NATIONAL DRUNK & DRUGGED DRIVING PREVENTION MONTH

December is National Drunk & Drugged Driving Prevention Month. The holiday season is of course a major target of the effort to stop impaired driving, be it from alcohol alone or other drugs as well. Even legitimate prescription drugs or over-the-counter medications/supplements can cause impairment, especially if mixed with a holiday brew!

In 2006, 42,642 people were killed in motor vehicle crashes. Of those, 13,470 people were killed in traffic crashes that involved a driver or motorcyclist with a blood alcohol concentration of .08 or higher. It is illegal in EVERY state to drive with a BAC of .08 or higher. Even lower BACs can cause impairment that can lead to accidents and other bad judgment calls.

No drink or celebration is so "good" that it's worth wearing a set of attached, cold metal bracelets and then sitting in a cold and probably crowded jail cell!!! And that's just the immediate impact.....then there is loss of license, court costs, possibly jail time, the impact of having injured or killed others, etc., etc., etc. to consider. For more information, visit <http://www.stopimpaireddriving.org/>

And remember---BUZZED driving IS drunk driving!!! You don't have to be "drunk" to be impaired and a danger on the road.

BIG BEAR GOLF TOURNAMENT.....LAST ONE IS NEXT YEAR

The 9th Annual Kyle Haggmann Memorial Golf Tournament in September in Big Bear was graced with the presence of PGA pro Dave Stockton. He was the 1991 Ryder Cup Captain and his presence and time spent on autographs was greatly appreciated. We are thankful for the support the Haggmann family has given to Project GHB through this tournament. The tournament has benefited Project GHB and the Steven G. Mihaylo High School Education Foundation for the Kyle Haggmann Scholarship Memorial Fund. The family has decided that 2008, the 10th year, will be the last year of this special project. We hope that next year's will be a very special one for the family and the community of Big Bear. To see Kyle's story: http://www.swatdigest.com/archives/arch_mrdbrbyghb.html

JAZZ PAYING \$20 MILLION FOR WRONGLY MARKETING XYREM (GHB)

According to the Minneapolis Star Tribune and New York Times and other media sources, Jazz Pharmaceuticals has agreed to pay \$20 million to resolve a federal investigation for the improper marketing of Xyrem (GHB). Jazz bought Orphan Medical, original maker of Xyrem, in 2005. This settles the federal civil and criminal investigation. Xyrem is simply GHB, though typically touted under a different chemical name, sodium oxybate, to reduce the public awareness of its content. Meanwhile, Jazz is pushing hard for the international market too, knowing that few countries have any idea of the problems associated with GHB (sodium

oxybate). Spring 2007 Jazz went “public” in the stock market scene, trying to save themselves from bankruptcy, according to news reports.

Many Xyrem patients have come forward to Project GHB with their problems with this drug. We would hope they would also report the problems to their doctors and to the Food & Drug Administration’s Medwatch. Unfortunately, many say that their doctors don’t want to hear it, saying they should just keep taking it no matter what. It is apparent that some doctors are prescribing Xyrem without ruling out patients with histories of addiction or mental health issues or those already diagnosed with apnea (which can be complicated by GHB).

We have also now heard of a Xyrem death of a man taking Xyrem as prescribed and with a history of apnea. We are waiting for more information on that case. We have been told that the cause of death was listed as GHB.

GHB is being pushed off label as a treatment for fibromyalgia and via clinical trials. It has a low efficacy rate—reports indicate it helps only about 30 percent of patients with fibromyalgia.

http://www.nytimes.com/2007/05/31/business/31place.html?_r=1&n=Top%2fReference%2fTimes%20Topics%2fPeople%2fBerenson%2c%20Alex&oref=slogin

THE CHRIS ADAM’S STORY—GENTLEMAN’S CHOICE

A documentary by Mickey Grant

This is the story of the rise and fall of wrestler, “Gentleman” Chris Adams. Chris was born in England, where he studied professional judo. He came to the United States in the early 80s, where he became a professional wrestler. He fought with many of the top wrestling leagues, and achieved notable fame and popularity for a while. His lifestyle, however, overtook him, and he came spiraling down. He died in 2001 while awaiting trial for the overdose-death (GHB) of his girlfriend one year before. Chris’ ex-wife, Brandi died a few months later from an overdose, leaving a young daughter behind with no parents.

Those who knew Chris remembered his charming, warm personality, a clever sense of humor, and a fabulous British accent. They also remembered his darker, violent side, which could come out at unpredictable moments. And not everyone was aware Chris had an addiction to alcohol and drugs, and liked to play with dangerous combinations.

This story is told by various people whose lives he touched, including one of his best friends, who ultimately shot and

killed Chris in an act ruled to be self defense. The video tells about addiction and the deadly grip it had on Chris. Gentleman’s Choice is a story of drugs, murder and romance. It is also a story about making decisions, and the overwhelming power of addiction.

http://www.creativehat.com/gentlemans_choice.htm

The movie trailer for GENTLEMAN’S CHOICE may be viewed on Google Video at the following address:

<http://video.google.com/videoplay?docid=59525788234266861&hl=en>

Chris Adams was a friend of Chris Benoit, the WWE wrestler who killed his wife and son and then himself in Georgia earlier this year. Friends say that they had seen Adams and Benoit do GHB together. The Benoit family tragedy has brought a lot of attention to the issue of steroids and drugs among WWE wrestlers, though the focus has been on steroids. Project GHB has heard from other WWE wrestlers or their families regarding GHB abuse/addiction. And, we reviewed the book “Walking A Golden Mile” by a WWE wrestler in a prior newsletter. William Regal (Darren Matthews really) talked about his addiction to GHB which he called the worst of all the drugs he had done.

TAMPA BUCCANEERS---FORMER PLAY DAVID BOSTON & GHB DUI

Former Tampa Buccaneer David Boston was arrested for DUI in August 2007 and ultimately released from the team via an injury settlement. The officer who made the arrest recognized that his impairment for driving was not caused by alcohol. Tests determined that Boston was under the influence of GHB. Boston was found asleep at the wheel of his vehicle with the engine running.

The video of Boston’s arrest shows a somewhat belligerent David Boston trying to avoid field sobriety tests and take only a breathalyzer or blood test, thinking that GHB won’t show up in those tests. His refusal or inability to follow instructions is, of course, part of the test. His request to call his attorney was denied as there is no right for an attorney at that stage of an investigation for DUI. <http://tbo.com/video/xml/MGBMLUB3R5F.html>

WHEN IS PROJECT GHB’S NEXT CONFERENCE???????

By Trinka Porrata

We have had many inquiries as to when Project GHB will sponsor another international conference. We do not have any specific plans at this time. Conferences are expensive and the last one was particularly taxing financially due to

the unanticipated date change (necessitated by a medical emergency on my part). We have done each conference without lush financial backing (thanks to forensic nurse/consultant Connie Moore & sponsor Alkermes we did have coffee at the Dallas conference beyond what would otherwise have been possible!!), but it is difficult without an up-front budget. We have put in for SAMSHA conference grants in the past, but it seems that the funding cycle gets canceled completely on occasion, at least the times we have applied!

Meanwhile, our limited resources are focused on the new book, "G'd Up 24/7: The GHB Addiction Guide." We are getting a steady stream of GHB addicts seeking help worldwide, especially in Canada, the UK, USA, Australia and New Zealand. The conferences have been well regarded by attendees and are totally unique in bringing together researchers, medical personnel of various fields, law enforcement, prosecutors and even judges and community resources. We hope to do another in the future (most likely in Las Vegas again) when backing permits and we are grateful to those who have been vendors, sponsors, and speakers in the past and to those who donated raffle prizes.

Vendors included Purdue Pharma, MedTox, Alkermes, Jennys Journey, Cookie Lee Jewelry, DEA Victim Assistance Program, Millwood Hospital, Lincoln Council on Alcoholism, Texas National Guard, IACP DIPET, American Chemistry Council, Law Tech Publishing, Voice of the Victims.

ON LINE REFERENCES OF INTEREST

Please check out websites on our reference page and elsewhere on our website and these websites that have supported our efforts (just to mention a few). Shop for information or products from them too!

SWAT DIGEST is a website dedicated to training and professionalism in law enforcement tactical operations. They have supported Project GHB via articles about drug abuse issues, particularly GHB.

<http://www.swatdigest.com/>

CONVICT GEAR is a line of workout clothing designed by former Mr. New Zealand Justin Rys, who went to prison for trafficking GHB & steroids. The clothing logo shows a "big guy" trying to pull apart jail bars. Justin's story of addiction to GHB is told in Project GHB's book, "G'd Up 24/7." Justin hopes his story will save others as well. <http://bigkiwiconvictgear.com/>

ROADSIDE ACCESS www.RoadsideAccess.com has a great vehicle search tool kit for law enforcement officers. Project GHB was s presenter at the ROADSIDE ACCESS

conference in 2007.

THE JOYFUL HEART FOUNDATION -- Mariska Hargitay, of Law & Order fame, has a foundation dedicated to surviving sexual assault. www.joyfulheartfoundation.org

CHICK SPEAK is a website dedicated to young women designed to inspire big dreams, strong values and success in the world. Their articles cover everything from make up and fashion to personal safety and responsibility.

<http://chickspeak.com/about/>

IMPORTANT NOTE---EMAIL ADDRESS PROBLEM

For anyone who has tried to reach me via Trinka@project-ghb.org during the summer and didn't get any response, PLEASE try again, and either try the same email address or use Equus555@att.net . There have been technical difficulties at one point. Equus555@worldnet.att.net is also valid (the worldnet part isn't necessary, but it works either way). NOTE: We also found out that the website reports were down for a time. Anyone who has completed one of the forms during the summer and received no response should contact me right away. Sorry for the inconvenience.