



# A WORLD OF DREAMS WHERE EVERYTHING IS POSSIBLE

Today I discovered where the rainbows of my youth lead to. There is a man in Brussels with a heart of gold. He has an organization that provides a laundry service and hot showers to people in need for the paltry sum of 2 euros. The organization is staffed by benevoles or volunteers. Many are retired professionals that now dedicate themselves to helping those in need. Amongst them is a wonderful lady who has 34 years experience working in television and who now creates the monthly newsletter. There is also a retired veterinarian who during his career specialised in artificial insemination. It is fitting that he should have been involved in the magic of new life as today when people come in from the street to take a shower, the warm water, aromatic soap and freshly laundered towels are enough to breathe new life into a world weary customer. He also does magic tricks. He waved his fingers and in the blink of an eye made a cigarette move from between one set of fingers to another. As a smoker I was relieved the cigarette didn't disappear altogether!

There is also a Chilean artist called Eric who contributes to the journal. He is a former drug addict and alcoholic who was reformed by *Alcoholics Anonymous*. He goes to church every morning and sings his gratitude for his good fortune. The misadventures of the past are now overshadowed by his creativity in the present. He goes to confession and perhaps has to ask forgiveness for his blunt honesty. He wrote a piece called « My mother is a whore » and I can only imagine him sitting in the confessional asking forgiveness from a patient priest for his lack of respect for his mother and his flagrant use of foul language. He gave me an article about the founder of alcoholics anonymous who used to put a mattress under his balcony in case he was ever overcome by the urge to commit suicide. This is what *DoucheFLUX* provides, a mattress for those in need where one can come and be cushioned by the soft fabric and rest and relax for a little while, enter the world of dreams where everything is a possibility.

There are also some lovely young people including two social workers

and a volunteer from Barcelona. The youngster from Barcelona is full of the spit and fire of youth and during my visit he came into the room asking about a song with the word coño in the title. In Spanish culture it is common to intermingle swear words with ordinary speech and one will often hear « hijo de puta » and « la puta que lo pario » from even the most demure of conversationalists.

One of the social workers is called Aurelie and I asked her if it meant something in French. She told me it was a mixture of the Spanish for sunrise, aurora, and Ely for God.

This only serves to confirm my suspicions that angels live at *DoucheFLUX*. Eric told me religion may be a taboo subject to talk about as there are so many people from different religions who visit *DoucheFLUX* but I can't help myself. If you are a Catholic then I'm sure all the employees at *DoucheFLUX* have the keys to the pearly gates and if you are a Buddhist then I'm sure they are all coming back as princes and princesses.

**Patty Braun**

