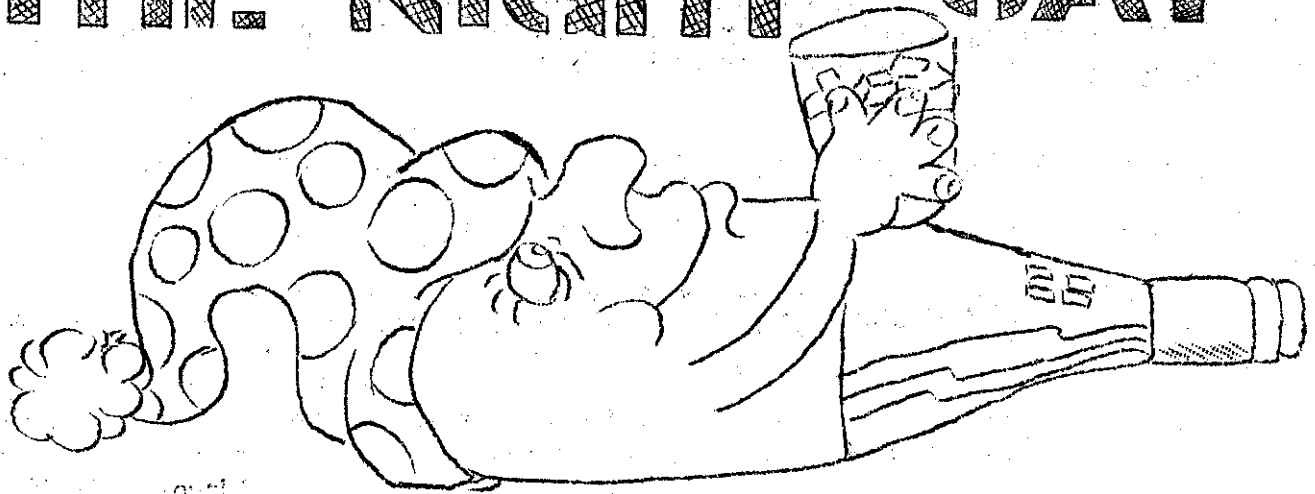


THE NIGHT CAP



Published monthly by the San Antonio Central
Service Office of Alcoholics Anonymous
in the interest of greater unity of members
in local and Southwest Texas groups.

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VOLUME THREE

FEBRUARY 1978

NUMBER FORTY FOUR

FUNDAMENTALS (Continued from the January Issue)

The 4th Fundamental - Fellowship.

At last you are not alone. Here is a group of people, all with the same problem, but doing something about it. You are accepted. No matter what your background, and where you came from, what you have done, how low you have been, all you need do is "have the desire to quit drinking" and you are "in".

Slowly by listening, by observing, by reading, attending meetings and sharing, I grew a bit more. In the warm and friendly gatherings I started to gain something. It suddenly accured to me and I got that secret status symbol that usually come to us all, "I belong".

So we become a part of the program by just being there. In most cases, as in mine, when we walk through that door into AA we wanted to get sober and stay sober.

AA teaches us that we need these people and they need us. Out of this fact grows the strong bond between Alcoholics and from it comes the closeness, the warmth, friendship and love that is the Fellowship. Even the oldest member of AA is well aware of the suffering of the still practising Alcoholic, for in them, he or she can see themselves again, if they return to drink.

In AA some of which will no doubt become the most important and long lasting friendships are formed. Many of them will be for life and it is through this camaraderie that we learn to love ourselves, to love and accept love from our fellow AA members. In no other organization, fraternity, sorority, religious or fraternal group or service clubs is the bond so strong. Members of these former groups may have a common interest, but none have the formation of a common problem. Nor do they approach the spiritual aspect of AA from such a personal and individual manner. The Fellowship thrives on assistance and help for another Alcoholic through "sharing", and with this we unwittingly help ourselves.

And now my concept of the 5th Fundamental - The Tools
How do we work this program ?

(Continued on Page Two)

FUNDAMENTALS (Continued from Page One)

No. 1 - Is The Steps

Most of us, in desperation, join AA for one purpose - to get sober. It is not normally forced upon us. These 12 Steps are a suggested program of recovery.

By humble and daily practice of this program, we achieve this start of sobriety. And we are promised that later "There is a further miracle - Peace of Mind, plus security and happiness".

They told me there were no "musts" in AA - The 12 Steps are not compulsory, yet as we practice them and grow in the understanding of this new way of life, we realize that there are many voluntary "you betters".

No. 2 - The Big Book

How many of you have read it? How many of you have studied it?

If no - you should obtain one today and live with it. Mine was a constant companion in my early months in AA - and even now I often pick it up and reread parts. There are some 11 chapters in the latter edition, followed by a series of early AA personal stories.

Chapter 5 - "How it works" probably is more often read and referred to than any other part of the book. It starts with "Rarely have we seen a person fall who has thoroughly followed our path". I've heard it told that Bill W. at one time was asked if he were to change any part of the book what it would be. His reply was to change "Rarely" to "Never".

No. 3 - The Little Red Book - An Interpretation of the Steps - 1969.

In this small bundle of knowledge each of the 12 Steps are discussed in detail. It was by studying this book and hearing it discussed in many Discussion and Step meetings that I got a much better concept of the Steps and began to really understand them.

No. 4 - The 12 Steps and 12 Traditions

This book is a repeat of the discussions of the 12 Steps, presenting an explicit view of the principles by which AA members recover and of the 12 Traditions by which the Society functions.

There are many other tools, including AA Way of Life, the Grapevine, our local Night Cap, the Serenity Prayer and here in Texas especially, the Sobriety Date.

On the walls of many of the meeting places you will run into many slogans:

"Easy Does It"; "First Things First"; "Live and Let Live"; "Thy Will be Done"; and "But for the Grace of God".

At first all of these seem juvenile, as does the Sobriety Date and Birthday Night, but often, as you progress in this new way of life, you will find need of them, they become more and more important and a great help in your progress to happy contented sobriety.

(Continued on Page Three)

FUNDAMENTALS (Continued from Page Two)

To many of you, this disertation will sound very basic, but where and from whom do we receive as much as we give - from the new and early members of Alcoholics Anonymous. If, by writing this article, I have helped only one of the new one's, I will be gratified.

- Hod C. -

***** A DIFFERENT WORLD CANNOT BE BUILT BY INDIFFERENT PEOPLE *****

PARK NORTH GROUP READIES FOR 1ST ANNIVERSARY!

The Park North Group held its first meeting on February 18th, 1977. Prior to this first meeting Dr. Joe Berry had requested that an AA group be formed at the Park North Hospital in order that the alcoholic patients could become acquainted with AA while still hospitalized.

Jack and Dee S. were contacted by Peggy J. and asked to call the doctor. A meeting between Dr. Berry, Jack, and Dee was held to discuss plans for the group; the site of the first meeting was the basement cafeteria of the hospital. The meeting night and type of meeting was selected because there were no "Open Discussion" meetings on Friday evenings in the immediate hospital vacinity; the time was set for 8 p.m. to accomodate the patients.

On Friday, February 17th the group will celebrate its first anniversary. Dr. Jerry G. and his wife Nell (of Texas City) who are both recovering Alcoholics will be the guest speakers, and a party will follow the meeting.

For this meeting only we Will meet in the Park North Professional Building located just north of the hospital drive entrance.

MARK YOUR AA CALENDAR, and Hospital Groups if you plan "busing" please contact Mary Lou C., Group secretary so we will be sure to have plenty of "goodies"!

¡Por la jente de los grupos que hablan español, nosotros queremos Uds. a vienen!

We love all of you!

-- Dee S.--

PIC: 11/15/77 - 1/15/78

The closing months of '77 and the beginning of the new year have seen John H., chairman of the Public Information Committee a very busy man. John spoke with Alanons at Club 12 for 2 hour long sessions, to a health class at McArthur High School for an hour long class period and showed films to both the Wincrest and Northeast Groups.

John A. addressed a class at SAC at Lackland and spoke to 2 classes at Churchill High School.

Bill M. also spoke to a group of Alnons at Club 12, and Fred T. was the guest of Alamo Heights High School.

Mary Jane McD. was a welcome addition to a "family oriented" Sociology class at SAC, as was Sean O'M., Joan B. and Nancy W.

The PIC has many exciting plans for the coming months, and many engagements to fill. You may be just the person needed! Contact John H. or the Central Service Office for more information.

I WONDERED WHY SOMEBODY DIDN'T DO SOMETHING * THEN I REALIZED THAT I AM * * * SOMEBODY * * *

STAT'S: 12/15/77 - 1/15/78

AA	135
Alanon	17
Information	68
Student	1
PIC	8

BISHOP JONES SPEAKS AT MEMORIAL SERVICE

A rare opportunity was afforded members of Alcoholics Anonymous, their families

(Continued on Page four)

BISHOP JONES SPEAKS AT MEMORIAL SERVICE (Continued from Page Three)

and friends in the San Antonio area when Bishop Everett H. Jones, retired Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of West Texas, the instigator of AA in San Antonio, spoke at Club 12 on January 15th. The Occasion was a memorial service to honor those AAs and Alansons who had died in 1977. Bishop Jones was introduced by "Van" Van D., who chaired the meeting.

The Bishop prefaced his talk by saying that, due to his retired status, his age (which is belied by his youthful manner and vitality), and his doctor's advice, he was no longer able to accept many speaking engagements. To illustrate, he quoted the following verse,

AS YOU GROW OLDER:

"Pamper the body, prod the soul - Accept limitations but play the role - Withdraw from the front, but stay in the fight - Avoid isolation, keep in sight - Beware of reminiscing (except to a child) - To forgetting proper names be reconciled - Refrain from loquacity, be crisp and concise - And regard self-pity as a cardinal vice!

Recalling his thirty-seven years of working with alcoholics, Bishop Jones told of the trip he made to Houston in 1971 where he arranged to meet an AA member and bring him to San Antonio to help organize a local group. Unfortunately, the fledgling member met some old cronies and, when time came to hold the meeting, he was in no condition to attend. That catastrophe delayed the beginning of AA in San Antonio until April, 1975, when the then Reverend Jones arranged for Esther E. of Dallas to help organize our first AA group.

He spoke of the many AAs he had personally known over the years, a "nameless host" who were no longer with us and of their contributions to the Fellowship. The ingenuity of the alcoholic, he said, impressed him, particularly the drunk he knew who had rigged a contraption in his chimney which kept his liquor supply from his wife's prying eyes. On occasion Mrs. Jones would assist her husband, serving coffee to the suffering alcoholic until the Bishop could help him. One evening, Bishop Jones recalled, he even received a collect call from a wandering parishioner in his cups. When he refused to accept the charges, the drunk asked the operator, "Will he pay for half?"

Bishop Jones likened the AA Program to the current "Born Again" movement, describing the new beginnings for alcoholics when they are soberly able to develop new attitudes in their relationships with their Higher Power, families, and those around them, saying "There are always new hills to climb!" He spoke of death as a new beginning and concluded by offering his memorial prayer.

Van read the names of those who departed in 1977. Members of Group 12 hope to hold a Memorial Service annually in the future, to include all AAs and Alansons in the San Antonio area.

IN MEMORIAM

Winifred S. Pearce, January 1978

Herman Howard, January 1978

The Central Service Office would like to thank all those who have made memorials.

TO THE FAMILIES AND FRIENDS WE EXTEND SINCERE SYMPATHY AND OUR PRAYERS THAT THEIR BEREAVEMENT MAY BE TEMPERED BY REFLECTIVE THOUGHTS UPON THE HAPPINESS

These gifts are deeply appreciated and will enable AA to further carry the message.

- Irish" F. -

REGULAR MONTHLY EVENTS:

The Administrative Board of the Central Service Office will meet on Tuesday 7th at 7 p.m. in the Central Service Office.

* * * *

The C.S.O.C. and District 1 meetings will be held on Sunday, February 12th at 7 p.m. in Club 12, 102 Thames Blvd.

* * * *

The STARR (South Texas Area Round Robin) will not be held this month.

* * * *

The Goliad Group, 537 Avondale, will hold its regular monthly barbeque, Sunday, February 19th at 6 p.m. followed by an "Open Speakers' Meeting" at 7:30 p.m. All other Sunday meetings are held at the usual time of 8:15 p.m.

* * * *

Group 12 will hold its monthly dinner and games night on Saturday, February 25th at 7 p.m.

* * * *

The Frontier Group will sponsor its regular monthly dance Saturday, February 25th following the "Open Speakers' Meeting" 8:15 p.m. at the ARC Southton Road.

* * * *

The 24 Hour Service Group, 1203 Fredricksburg, will hold its regular monthly dinner on Sunday, February 26th at 1 p.m.

* * * *

LOST, and needed to complete collection! August, 1977 issue of the Grapevine. If you have one you are willing to part with contact Kate R. or the Central Service Office.

* * * *

NEW GROUPS:

A new Women's Neeting has been added to the schedule at The 24 Hour Club. "Closed Discussion Meetings" are held on Saturday morning begining at 10 a.m.

Area women are urged to "brown bag" it, and stay on for lunch following the meeting. Share with your sisters!

* * * *

An "Open Alanon Meeting" has also been added to The 24 Hour Club's Saturday evening schedule. The group meets at 8:15 p.m.

* * * *

The Big Book Group, Kerrville, has added a 45 minute meeting followed by a social hour on Friday evenings at 8:15 p.m.

* * * *

The Downtown Group, Ave. E. at McCullough now has a full schedule of meetings in their new location.

"Discussion Meetings" are held at 8:15 Monday and Tuesday evenings. A "Speakers' Meeting" is held at 8:15 p.m. on Friday, and a "Step Meeting" is held at 3 p.m. on Sunday afternoon. In addition an Alanon meeting is held at 8:15 Tuesday evening.

\$ \$ \$ \$ BUCK - A - MONTH \$ \$ \$ \$

CONVENTION NEWS:

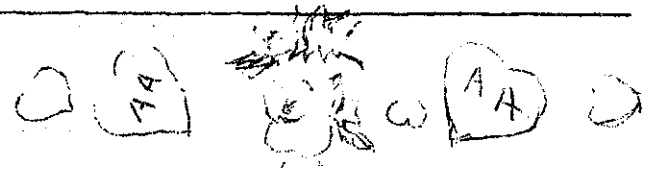
"Rise and Shine" for the 16th Annual El Paso Jamboree, February 17th - 19th.

A registration fee of \$8.00 includes all meetings and the dance. The banquet is also \$8.00, and Alateen registration is \$1.00.

For information write: Jamboree Secretary, P. O. Box 1405, El Paso, Texas 79948.

For motel reservations write direct to: The Rodeway Inn, 6201 Gateway West, El Paso, Texas 79925.

! ! BE AN ELF TO YOURSELF! !



! ! SUBSCRIBE TO THE NIGHT CAP! !

FINANCIAL CENTER

SAN ANTONIO

CENTRAL SERVICE OFFICE

RECEIVED JANUARY 15, 1978

GROUP JAN. TO DATE GROUP JAN. TO DATE

GROUP	JAN.	TO DATE	GROUP	JAN.	TO DATE
Alamo Heights	0	0	Open Door	0	0
Audubon	0	0	Park North	0	10.00
Brees	0	0	Realty	0	5.00
Broadway	0	0	Reliance	0	40.00
Downtown	0	0	Sally	0	0
First Step	0	0	SASH	0	0
Ft. Sam Houston	40.00	40.00	Santa Fe	30.00	30.00
Frontier	20.00	20.00	Sahara	0	0
Goliad	0	0	St. Agnes	0	0
Group 12	50.00	50.00	Serenity	10.00	10.00
Grupo Del Sol	0	0	Sharing	0	0
Grupo Esperanza	0	0	Spiritual Life	0	0
Grupo Unidad	30.00	30.00	Stepping Stones	0	0
Harmony	0	0	Sunset	15.00	15.00
Highlands	0	0	Trinity	0	0
Hope	0	0	The Haven	15.00	15.00
Laurel Heights	15.00	15.00	24 Hour	0	0
Marymont	0	0	Universal	0	0
Northeast	0	0	Valley Hi	0	0
N. San Pedro	10.00	10.00	VA Hospital	0	0
Northwest	20.00	20.00	Villa Rosa	25.00	25.00
Northwood	0	0	Wesley	0	0
			Windcrest	0	0

AREA

Bandera	0	0	Kerrville	0	0
Bridge (N.B.)	0	0	Women's Serenity	0	0
Canyon Lake	0	0	Lylie	0	8.00
El Toro (Port Manfd)	0	0	New Braunfels	0	0
Floresville	5.00	5.00	Pearsall	0	10.00
Hill Country Group	0	0	Seguin	0	0
			ANONYMOUS INDIVIDUAL CONTRIBUTIONS	200.00	200.00

Any group contributions received after 12/15/77 are carried over to 1978. Thank you for your 1977 support.

BUCK-A-MONTH CONTRIBUTION FORM

DETACH AND MAIL

Central Service Office - 109 Lexington Ave., Suite 215, San Antonio, Texas 78205
Please enter my contribution to the BUCK-A-MONTH for _____ months. Donation is enclosed on the basis of \$1.00 per month.

NAME STREET CITY STATE ZIP