



# The Nightcap

THE NIGHTCAP IS PUBLISHED MONTHLY AT THE CENTRAL SERVICE OFFICE  
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Editor's Desk: P E R S P E C T I V E

"There is a principle which is a bar against all information, which is proof against all arguments and which cannot fail to keep a man in everlasting ignorance - that principle is contempt prior to investigation." (P,570-BB)

A NEW LIFE - (just thinking, again?)

Is sobriety all that we are to expect of a spiritual awakening? No, sobriety is only a bare beginning; it is only the first gift of the first awakening. If more gifts are to be received, our awakening has to go on. As it does go on, we find that bit by bit we can discard the old life - the one that did not work - for a new life that can and does work under any conditions whatever. Regardless of worldly success or failure, regardless of pain or joy, regardless of sickness or health or even death itself, a new life of endless possibilities can be lived if we are willing to continue our awakening, through the practice of A.A.'s Twelve Steps. (from the Grapevine, 1957)

When a man or a woman has a spiritual awakening, the most important meaning of it is that he has now become able to do, feel, and believe that which he could not do before on his unaided strength and resources alone. He has been granted a gift which amounts to a new state of consciousness and being. We have been set on a path which tells us that we are really going somewhere, that life is not a dead end, not something to be endured or mastered, because we have laid hold of a source of strength which we had hitherto denied ourselves.

.....and, "accepting God's gifts;" (Bill W.'s letter) "Though many theologians hold that sudden spiritual experience amount to a special distinction, if not a divine appointment of some sort, I question this view. Every human being, no matter what his attributes for good or evil, is a part of the divine spiritual economy. Therefore, each of us has his place, and I cannot see that God intends to exalt one over another.

So it is necessary for all of us to accept whatever positive gifts we receive with a deep humility, always bearing in mind that our negative attitudes were first necessary as a means of reducing us to the positive ones via the conversion experience. Your own alcoholism and the immense deflation that finally resulted are indeed the foundation upon which your spiritual experience rests.".....and, down to earth - (BB-p.130)

"Those of us who have spent much time in the world of spiritual make-believe have eventually seen the childishness of it. This dream world has been replaced by a great sense of purpose, accompanied by a growing consciousness of the power of God in our lives. We have come to believe He would like us to keep our heads in the clouds with Him, but that our feet ought to be firmly planted on earth. That is where our fellow travelers are, and that is where our work must be done. These are the realities for us. We have found nothing incompatible between a powerful spiritual experience and a life of sane and happy usefulness."

-----we will like to hear your comments, for our  
'for members only' section.

ONLY ONE TO A CUSTOMER....This is a bright, new day. Complete with 24 hours of opportunities, choices, and attitudes. A perfectly matched set of 1440 minutes. This unique gift, this one day cannot be exchanged, replaced or refunded....Make the most of it. There's one to a customer!

T O L E R A N C E

The most lovable quality anyone possesses is tolerance. It is the vision that enables one to see things from another's viewpoint. It is the generosity that concedes to others the right to their own opinion and their own peculiarities. It is the bigness that enables us to let people be happy in their own way instead of our way.....

- H Don't get too hungry! Your mental attitude can change easily if your body craves fulfillment.
- A Don't get too anxious! Don't try to relive the past. Use its experiences for better living today.
- L Don't get too lonely! Seek that love which you want to give and receive. A person who is lonely can fall prey to self-pity very easily.
- T. Don't get too tired! This leads to being upset easily and to doing things which we later regret.

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from WEBSTER'S

- \*ANONYMITY: the quality or state of being anonymous.
- Anonymous: having or giving no name, 2: of unknown or unnamed source or origin.
- \*PRINCIPLE: a rule or code of conduct; also: habitual devotion to right principles, and: a comprehensive and fundamental law, doctrine, or assumption.
- \*PERSONALITY: the totality of characteristics or traits of a person that makes him different from other persons.

What is the purpose of anonymity in A.A.? Why is it often referred to as the greatest single protection the Fellowship has to assure its continued existence and growth?

If we look at the history of A.A., from its beginning in 1935 until now, it is clear that anonymity serves two different yet equally vital functions:

- @ At the personal level, anonymity provides protection for all members from identification as alcoholics, a safeguard often of special importance to newcomers.
- @ At the level of press, radio, TV, and films, anonymity stress<sup>es</sup> the equality in the Fellowship of all members by putting the brakes on those who might otherwise exploit their A.A. affiliation to achieve recognition, power, or personal gain.

Bill's letter of 1959, on anonymity: "In some sections of A.A., anonymity is carried to the point of real absurdity. Members are on such a poor basis of communication that they don't even know each other's last names or where each lives. It's like the cell of an underground.

In other sections, we see exactly the reverse. It is difficult to restrain A.A.'s from shouting too much before the whole public, by going on spectacular 'lecture tours' to play big shot.

However, I know that from these extremes we slowly pull ourselves onto a middle ground. Most lecture-giving members do not last too long, and the superanonymous people are apt to come out of hiding respecting their A.A. friends, business associates, and the like. I think the long-time trend is toward the middle of the road - which is probably where we should be."

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Surveying the Past...letter 1957 (Bill W.)..."We reacted more strongly to frustration than normal people. By reliving these episodes and discussing them in strict confidence with somebody else, we can reduce their size and therefore their potency in the unconscious.".....

FOR MEMBERS ONLY: (Thanks to Elves S., from 'Serenity Group')

We speak of the A.A. program as being spiritual. Spirituality is a quality that all of us have. It is the essence of being human. Spirituality is always a gift and never an achievement. It is in this sense that I see the program of Alcoholics Anonymous as completely spiritual because it deals with the central question of life: How should we live as human beings? How should we act and grow as recovering alcoholics?

I think there is a distinction that must be recognized if we are to avoid confusion and perhaps miss the essential contribution of the A.A. program - the distinction between religion and spirituality. Many recovering alcoholics cannot comprehend the spiritual implications of the A.A. program. They get confused because of past experiences with a particular religion. I am not saying that religious people cannot be spiritual. They are. I am equally convinced that many truly spiritual people do not belong to any established religion. Some speak of religious conversions, others remain healthy agnostics. There is a variety of individual experiences which suggest that we must not become exclusive or denominational. We strive after principles, not preach-ments. So, what then is spirituality? It is that which enables the growth of human values. Qualities like honesty, integrity, joy, patience and tolerance. Spirituality is also found in music, poetry, paintings, in a walk through the woods, in the song of the birds. Most common of all spirituality is found in the tender and selfless love of one human being for another.

LET GO

(from Anonymous to Donna, to Angel and to 'for members only'.)

To "let go" does not mean to stop caring.

It means to do it for someone else.

To "let go" is not to cut myself off.

It is the realization I can't control another.

To "let go" is to admit powerlessness.

Which means the outcome is not in my hands.

To "let go" is not to try to change or blame another.

It's to make the most of myself.

To "let go" is not to care for.

But to care about.

To "let go" is not to judge,

But to allow another to be a human being.

To "let go" is not to be protective.

It is to permit another person to face reality.

To "let go" is not to deny.

But to accept.

To "let go" is not to regret the past,

But to grow and live for the future.

To "let go" is to fear less,

And, love more.....



\*\*We encourage you to share experience, strength and hope in the "For Members Only" section of the Nightcap. Remember that contributors express their own personal viewpoints. Keep those cards and letters coming.

\*Mark your calander (Flyer enclosed)  
Frontier Group Anniversary Celebration - 4th of July

HIGHLIGHTS.....of a simple program:

"COPING WITH ANGER. Few people have been more victimized by resentments than have we alcoholics. A burst of temper could spoil a day, and a well-nursed grudge could make us miserably ineffective. Nor were we ever skillful in separating justified from unjustified anger. As we saw it, our wrath was always justified. Anger, that occasional luxury of more balanced people, could keep us on an emotional bender indefinitely. These 'dry benders' often led straight to the bottle."(12 & 12, pp.92)

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In this issue, we examine traditions eleven and twelve. We urge you to look them over carefully, for these are the twelve points that help assure the future of AA, just as the steps help assure our personal futures.

Tradition Eleven: Our public relations policy is based on attraction rather than promotion; we need always maintain personal anonymity at the level of press, radio and films. Our relations with the general public should always be characterized by personal anonymity. We think A.A. ought to avoid sensational advertising. Our names and pictures as A.A. members ought not be broadcast, filmed, or publicly printed. Our public relations should be guided by the principle of attraction rather than promotion. There is never need to praise ourselves. We feel it better to let our friends recommend us.  
Tradition Twelve. Anonymity is the spiritual foundation of all our traditions, ever reminding us to place principles before personalities. And finally, we of Alcoholics Anonymous believe that the principle of anonymity has an immense spiritual significance. It reminds us that we are to place principles before personalities; that we are actually to practice a genuine humility. This to the end that our great blessings may never spoil us; that we shall forever live in thankful contemplation of Him Who presides over us all.

-----  
CHIT CHAT.....On the road to recovery.....

In "you know who's" family, a brain was considered a luxury item instead of standard equipment.

And then, last Monday Ralph was telling us that his car is so classy - that it doesn't purr - it sneers.

Then Fred was explaining that "It ain't that I'm afraid to work, but there ain't much doing in my particular line. Tom was moved, and asked: "What do you do?" "I'm a window box weeder!"

.....and then Ralph's experiences with his first job out of town; he wrote home from his new job: "Made foreman; feather in my cap." A few weeks later he wrote, "Made manager; feather in my cap." Several weeks went by without a report, then came a telegram: "Fired. Send money for train fare." Replied his wife: "Use feathers and fly home!" Spotting a woman driving at the same time knitting, the motorcycle cop pulled alongside and shouted "Pull over!" "No," said the lady with a smile, "It's a pair of socks."

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QUOTES, QUESTS & QUIPS

--If your will power doesn't work, try your "won't" power....

--Wisdom is knowing what to do next, skill is knowing how to do it, and virtue is doing it.

--Courage....is fear that has said its prayers.

--The curve of a smile can set a lot of things straight....and, a warm smile thaws an icy state....also, a smile is the lighting system of the face and the heating system of the heart..... What sunshine is to flowers, smiles are to humanity.

-----  
Have you seen the new A.A. "Camel" pin now on the shelves at the CSO? It would make a nice gift for an A.A. friend.

Come and visit your CENTRAL SERVICE OFFICE  
103 Renner, San Antonio, Tx. 78201  
Tel. 733-7562

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

LOCAL

FREEDOM GROUP

Meets at 1514 OAK SHADOWS  
t THE ABIDING PRESCENCE LUTHERAN  
CHURCH; Friday - 8:15 - O/D  
(Instead of Thousand Oaks)

\*24 hr. CLUB

July 31st., 4:00pm  
DINNER -(\$2.50)-  
Meeting -6:30  
Come and visit, you'll like it!

NEW MEETINGS - LAMBDA GROUP

Mon.....O/D....8:15 pm  
Tue.....C/D...." "" ""  
Wed.....O/D...." "" ""  
Fri....Speakers "" ""  
Sat.....O/D...." "" ""  
Sun.....O/D...." "" ""  
1312 Wyoming Street

THE TRIANGLE CLUB

Turkey Dinner 1st Sunday of the  
month...FREE....at 11:00 am  
and,  
DANCE every FRIDAY 9:00 pm  
with lots of Snacks!!  
Club is open from 9am to  
.0 pm Daily.

NEW MEETING - TUESDAY NITE

John Calvin Pres. Church  
8102 Midcrown -8:15 - O/D  
(Same meeting place as NE Grp.)

P. I. REPORT -

Meeting with the Contractor's Asso.  
was addressed by Bob. B., who also  
did a taped presentation, together  
with Brenda F. for KESI Radio Sta..  
Also this month, an interview in  
Radio Sta. KVAR (Spanish) took  
place. (In Spanish, of course.)  
Penal Report -

Two very nice Certificates were  
given to Steve and Scott, of the  
Young People's grp. for their  
participation at the Clemens Unit.  
Progress is being made in all  
phases of this vital area.

8-4=4 4th of July at the A.R.C.  
Don't miss it, flyer enclosed.  
e 20th Anniversary of the ARC  
and the FRONTIER Grp.....

THE HAVEN GROUP

Big Book Meeting - Thursday - 8:15  
and  
Pot Luck DINNER, after 5:00pm meeting  
2nd SUNDAY of the month

=====  
/-GROUPS & INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS- /  
/Volunteers are needed at The Haven /  
/come -share, 12th step and co-sponsor/  
/some of these nice people, they need /  
/our support and help.-NOW- /  
=====

DOWNTOWN GROUP -

Convenient and interesting!.....  
BROWN BAG MEETINGS -noon- every day  
Monday thru Friday. Expect other very  
nice surprises, come ya all!  
110 McCullough (Basement entrance)

-----  
G.S.R.'s Meeting - Sunday July 17th  
C.S.O. Adm.Board Meeting, Tuesday  
-July 12th.

DELEGATE'S REPORT; following the month-  
ly GSR meeting, our AREA Delegate,  
Clyde M., will present his report on  
the recent GENERAL SERVICE CONFERENCE.  
Presentation will be at 8:00pm in Club  
12. While of particular interest to  
those in service work, ALL A.A.  
members are WELCOME.

-----  
HOSPITAL MEETINGS JULY

STATE HOSP.....VALLEY-HI Grp.  
SALLY.....COLONIES NORTH Grp.  
DETOX.....ALAMO Grp.  
CASA del SOL.....UNIDAD & EL LIBRO GDE  
A.R.C.....LAMBDA Grp.  
VILLA ROSA - JULY..... 5-Windcrest Grp.,  
12 - Goliad Grp., - 19 Broadway Grp., and  
the 26 - Valley-Hi Grp.

+ Our deepest sympathy to Alec G. on the  
death of his mother.

GOLIAD Grp. -Thanks to Richard S. and Pete H  
for taking an A.A. meeting to the Darrington  
Unit for the month of May.

COLONIES NORTH Grp.; Elected Dave P. as Trea.,  
Pat and Don as new members of the Steering  
Committee; reports their enthusiastic new  
G.S.R. -Dewey S.. Also, plans for a BIG  
ANNIVERSARY Celebration are in the making!

CENTRAL SERVICE OFFICE - SAN ANTONIO, TX.  
CONTRIBUTIONS RECEIVED

<u>GROUP</u>	<u>JUN</u>	<u>YTD</u>	<u>GROUP</u>	<u>JUN</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Alamo		50.00	Open Door		60.00
Alamo Heights	42.00	210.00	Park North		80.00
Audubon			Reliance		
Bluemel Oaks			Sahara		20.00
Boerne		20.00	Santa Fe		20.00
Broadway		140.00	SASH		50.00
Callaghan	40.00	280.00	Schertz	60.00	180.00
Coker		60.00	Serenity	15.00	90.00
Colonies North	150.00	750.00	Southwest Loop		60.00
Downtown	10.00	50.00	Stepping Stones		75.00
Eisenhauer		100.00	Summit		60.00
El Libro Grande			Sunset		95.00
El Milargo Del Siglo			Tejas		300.00
Fort Sam Houston	50.00	300.00	Triangle		
Frontier		10.00	Twenty-Four Hour		10.00
Goliad	25.00	50.00	Universal City	12.00	60.00
Group 12	200.00	800.00	Universal City, Sun.		30.00
Group Del Sol			V. A. Hospital		50.00
Grupo Unidad		60.00	Valley-Hi	30.00	360.00
Haven	25.00	150.00	Villa Rosa		200.00
Helotes			Wesley		20.00
Highland	20.00	120.00	West Ashby		
Kingsboro		15.00	Wilford Hall	20.00	60.00
Lambda		20.00	Windcrest		48.00
Laurel Heights	60.00	120.00	Young Peoples		28.16
Lytle		8.00			
Marymont		60.00			
New Life		30.00			
North San Pedro	50.00	150.00	Bandera	95.00	45.00
Northeast	30.00	150.00	Brazos Valley		Cameron-
Northwest	60.00	160.00	Canyon Lake	40.00	Rockdale 38.00
Northwood		25.00	Floresville	40.00	New Braunfels
Oblate		40.00	Kerrville		Home Group 15.00
			Uvalde	44.00	
			Caldwell Texas Group		

+++++ SUMMARY OF CONTRIBUTIONS		+++++ DISTRICT 1 ACTIVE GROUPS - 60	
June, 1983			
District 1	\$899.00	NEW GROUPS REPORTED	0
Area		DISCONTINUED GROUPS	0
Buck-A-Month	\$213.00		
Individual	\$ 3.80		
Memorial	\$ 90.00 For Fred H		
	(15.00 - Al D, 50.00 - Ms Henry H,		
	25.00 - Edward D)		

" WELCOME - WE NEED YOU "  
**COME AND VISIT THE**  
**"ALANO MEETING**  
**HALL" AT 4001 AND 4005**  
**S. PRESA AT ZAPATA**  
**AND FAIR.**

**OPEN 8AM TO 10PM? DAILY**

- MEETINGS -

IF NO ONE HAS TOLD YOU TODAY  
 THAT THEY LOVE YOU, WE LOVE YOU  
 AND YOU CAN'T DO ANYTHING? BRING YOUR

"BIG BOOK GRP"	OPEN TO ALL	THURSDAY	8:15 PM	BRING YOUR BOOK
"SANTA FE GROUP"	BI-LINGUAL	TUESDAY	8:15 PM	BRING THE BODY
"Young People's Group"	CLOSED	FRIDAY	9:00 PM	A CAPE
"SPEAKERS GROUP AND FAMILIES, KIDS"		SUNDAY	3:00 PM	"POT LUCK DINNER AT 2 PM"
"MEETING AFTER THE MEETING"		SATURADAY	12 MIDNITE	
"BEGINNERS MEETING"		MONDAY	9PM TO 10PM	

ANYONE DESIRING TO START NEW GROUPS CONTACT US AS -

**"THE ALANO MEETING HALL" AND**  
**LOUNGING FACILITIES ARE OPEN TO**  
**ANYONE WORKING THE PROGRAM.**

**FELLOWSHIP, COFFEE, SNACKS.**  
**WILL MAKE 12 STEP CALLS"**  
**THE HALL IS AVAILABLE FOR LARGE MEET-**  
**INGS OR EVENTS THAT DO NOT CON-**  
**FLECT WITH OUR SCHEDULE. Johnny**  
**TELEPHONE DAY OR NITE**  
**533-3160 OR 532-1556**

July Fourth\*

\*(1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6.)

The 20<sup>th</sup>-twentieth-XX<sup>th</sup>!!!

Anniversary of the ARC  
\*--\*--\*--\*

An afternoon

of food-fellowship-fun-Plus!!

4-5:30 > Bar-B-Cue (\$3.00 under 12/1c)

5:45 Raffle Drawings!!!  
multimarvyprizes

Chances: 50c  
3 for \$1.00

6:00 >> Frontier Group A.A. Meeting  
Speaker: Billy J. of Corpus

103 RENNER DRIVE  
SAN ANTONIO, TX 78201

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

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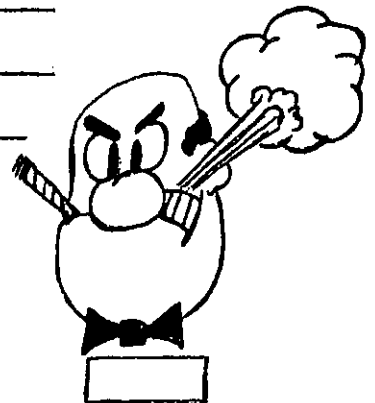
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CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_



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**Thanks for your order!**



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