

The Nightcap

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VOLUME 20

JULY 1990

NO. 7

Upcoming Events

UPCOMING EVENTS CONTINUED

JUL 14-15: Southwest Texas Area Workshop and Sharing Session. Ft. Brown Resort Hotel, 1900 E. Elizabeth Street, Brownsville, Texas 78520. Room reservations 1-800-582-3333.

JUL 27-29: Hill Country Round-up, Inn of the Hills, Kerrville, TX. For room reservations call 1-800-292-5690. Registration \$20. Write Registration Chairman, PO Box 33147, Kerrville, TX 78029-33027.

AUG 24-26: Aggieland 7th Annual Convention. College Station Hilton Hotel and Conference Center, 801 University Drive East, College Station, TX 77840. 409-693-7500 for reservations--specify AA Convention rate; \$45 single or double. Write Chairman, PO Box 5232, Bryan, TX 77805.

AUG 30-SEP 1: International Spanish Convention, Houston, Texas. For more information, write Yolanda, PO Box 830412, San Antonio, TX 78283 or call 512-927-4490.

OCT 5-7: 40TH Southwest Texas Area AA Conference, Red Lion Hotel, Austin, TX. For reservations, call 512-323-5466, or write Red Lion Hotel, Austin Airport, 6121 IH-35 N. at Hwy 290, Austin, TX 78752--ask for SWTAC rates before Sep 25th.

NOV 22-25: Las Vegas AA Round-up to be held at the Riviera Hotel, P. O. Box 43177, Las Vegas, Nevada 89116.

JAN 11-13, 1991: Southeast Texas Area Conference at The San Luis on Galveston Isle, 5222 Seawall Blvd., Galveston, TX 77551-9981. For reservations, call 1-800-392-5937. Registration \$10; make check payable to Conference Treasurer, P. O. Box 8068, Galveston, TX 77553.

JAN 4-6, 1991: 17TH Annual Lower Rio Grande Valley Jamboree, Bahia Mar Resort, South Padre Island. For reservations, call 1-800-292-7502. Specify Jamboree 1991 AA Rates. Write Jamboree '91 Secretary for information, P. O. Box 5453, Brownsville, TX 78520.

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IS YOUR GROUP BEING SUBSIDIZED?

Is your group being subsidized? If it's not contributing to GSO, CSO, or the Area then yes, your group is being subsidized... because it is accepting service, but letting other groups foot the bill. Some AA's might even think that the contribution reports are in violation of our Seventh Tradition. If they take but never give; if, for example, their GSR is receiving regular mailings from New York or the Area; if they take advantage of buying literature from CSO, if they rely on CSO to correctly list their meeting information in the directory, if they regularly pay their rent, exchange coin for coffee but look on the contributions to the Service Structure as a "luxury" then they surely aren't self-supporting.

Newly formed groups or groups that cannot afford it are not expected to contribute. But, let's be honest...how many of these groups have we?

(Taken from District IX News)

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**You Can Always
Tell An Alcoholic ...
But You Can't
Tell Him Much**



GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING MINUTES

JUNE 17, 1990

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Bob T., Chairman, with the Serenity Prayer. Richard O. read the Twelve Traditions. The Check-In Sheet was circulated and there were 47 persons present, including 4 new alternate GSR's. After the "Statement of Participation" was read, the minutes of the May meeting were accepted as printed in the June NIGHTCAP. Al D. gave a very comprehensive and concise financial report. Chairman requested volunteers for after-hour telephone duty for July (see list below).

Committee reports were as follows: H&I Committee Chairman, Eileen, asked for volunteers for various H&I's served. (See list below.) Since most GSRs feel they cannot commit their group to take meetings, a volunteer list for H&I work will be started. Anyone wanting to volunteer to be on the H&I Committee volunteer list, please call CSO and leave your name and phone number.

PI Committee Chairman, Don N., reported that since schools are out, the bulk of PI work has slowed down; however, the Somerset School will have a function in August. Some members are taking the message to Medical Center Hospital Psychiatric Ward. A Medical-Professional seminar is planned for September. AAWS has sent a press package regarding the Seattle Convention.

Jail Committee Chairman, John B., announced that old Grapevines are still needed--so please bring them to CSO for pick up.

OLD BUSINESS: Moving this meeting to St. Patrick's Church was brought up. Mike S. moved that we NOT MOVE, motion was seconded by Darrell. A lengthy discussion followed before vote was taken--20 voted to NOT MOVE; 19 voted to MOVE, motion carried. Immediately following, Doug G. moved to make the GMM a nonsmoking meeting, motion seconded by Brenda H. Much discussion followed--a count of hands showed 18 for nonsmoking; 23 for smoking--so motion defeated. The Statement of Participation will be amended to add that smokers be considerate of the nonsmokers and to limit cigarettes during meeting.

The net profit from the Weekend in SA Convention of \$11,447.67 will be added to CSO's Prudent Reserve.

NEW BUSINESS: None.

CSO REPORT: CPA has not completed the audit; 1458 copies of THE NIGHTCAP were mailed for June; 24 were returned. Reminder cards were sent to GSRs for this meeting. Thank-you letter written to Wayne B., CPA, for doing the Form 990. Received a total of 1168 phone calls in the month of May. New meeting directory is ready.

DCM REPORT: Knut H. reported for all districts--he is DCM for 1-C; plan to renumber the districts. District 1-D is sponsoring a workshop on Sponsorship on August 25, 1 to 4 p.m. at St. Andrews Church. On September 15, all DCMs will have a workshop in Devine. A flyer will be forthcoming on this. Also announced that the 1604 Group needs support.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: CSO will be closed on Wednesday, July 4th. Chuck K. announced the Young People's bid committee for the 1991 State Conference is having a fund-raising dance on June 30 at Blessed Sacrament Church. It was also announced that a bilingual meeting is now held at the State Hospital on Thursdays from 7 to 8 p.m.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m. with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Jan T.
JAN T., Secretary

AFTER HOUR TELEPHONE VOLUNTEERS FOR JULY

JUL 2-8: Park North Group

JUL 9-15: Alamo Heights Group

JUL 16-22: Marymont Group

JUL 23-29: Oak Hills Group

HOSPITALS & INSTITUTIONS VOLUNTEERS FOR JULY

MONDAY: Detox--Abundance Happy Hour Group; SASH--Park North Group; SAMM Center--Brook Hollow Group. WEDNESDAY: Ella Austin Com Ctr--New Acceptance Group; Salvation Army--Goliad Group; Clouthaven--Sunrise (Group 12). THURSDAY: Detox--Group 12; Colonial Hills--Pyramid Group. FRIDAY: Casa del Sol--Group 12; Detox--Rush Hour Group; Villa Rosa--no volunteer. SATURDAY: Detox--no volunteer; ARC--Stahl Road Group.

FAREWELL TO TED W.

Our friend Ted W. was a man who spoke "loud and clear." Ted's outlook was simple--put the plug in the jug, lead a decent life and you'll be all right.

Ted was from the old rough, tough, and ready school of sobriety. He was known to Twelve-Step a man by holding him by the throat and explaining the Program to him. He once kicked a door down to help a friend who had a slip. This is called GRATITUDE IN ACTION. Yes, he was tough but he was also ready at any time to help others.

Ted loved Alcoholics Anonymous and tried to practice the basic principles in all his affairs. We shall surely miss this old-timer, a man of character, wisdom, and courage.

Gene L. & Al D.

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NEW GROUPS+MEETINGS+CHANGES

SCHERTZ-CIBOLO GROUP has added a new meeting to their schedule. They now have a Speaker Meeting on Sundays at 11 a.m.

GROUP 12 announces that the Thursday, 10:30 a.m. Women's Closed-Discussion meeting has been changed to a Closed-Step meeting.

SAN ANTONIO NORTH GROUP announces that the Wednesday, Open Big Book meeting which was held at 8 p.m. has now folded.

GRUPO KINGSBORO has added two new meetings. On Tuesdays and Thursdays from 11 a.m. to 12 noon they have Open-Discussion meetings. This group meets at 3210 W. Commerce in the Unity Club.

NEW GROUP (NO NAME YET) meets at 2903 Nacogdoches, MacArthur Park Lutheran Church School, on Tuesdays at 8 p.m. This is a Closed-Discussion meeting. An Al-Anon meeting is held at the same time in another room.

SAC GROUP meets at 12 noon Tuesdays thru Fridays in the Moody Learning Center, 1st floor, room 116, at San Antonio College. This is an Open-Discussion. The meeting that was held at 8:15 a.m. has folded.

TO OUR AA FRIENDS

Thanks so very much for all your love and support that you have shown so many times and in so many ways. Your love has made losing Jeanne easier because I now have a faith in God that I did not have before and I know she is resting well and is with God. I also know that my life will be OK without her, because I have the love and support of this beautiful program.

Yours in the Fellowship, Jim B.

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PI COMMITTEE NEEDS YOU

The Public Information Committee needs volunteers for the Brady-Green Clinic "play" interviews. If you have not had the opportunity to participate in this, you don't know what you are missing!

Please call CS0 and leave your name and phone number--you will be contacted by Fred D.

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H&I COMMITTEE NEEDS YOU

The Hospitals and Institutions Committee needs volunteers to help carry the message to various hospitals and institutions in the community. This can be a very rewarding experience.

Please call CS0 and leave your name and phone number--you will be contacted by Eileen G.V.

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In Memoriam

TED W. passed away on June 1, 1990, after a lengthy illness. Ted was an active member of AA for over 34 years and will be missed by all who knew him.

TO THE FAMILY AND FRIENDS, WE EXTEND OUR SINCERE SYMPATHY AND OUR PRAYERS THAT THEIR BEREAVEMENT MAY BE TEMPERED BY REFLECTIVE THOUGHT UPON HAPPINESS SHARED.

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SERENITY

TERMINAL UNIQUENESS

In a recent meeting, someone shared a perspective on serenity that was helpful to me.

I had raised the topic of serenity because I am involved in a complex situation in which someone is threatening the safety and well-being of my children. I told my AA family that I feel stressed, angry, and anxious when I deal with this person, and that my serenity goes right out the window in those moments.

My friend pointed out that serenity does not equate to being emotionally comatose; that serenity is a state of appropriate emotional response. If something is funny, it is appropriate to laugh. If someone kicks me in the shins, it's appropriate to feel angry and to react in self-defense. Serenity isn't negated by strong emotions that are in balance with the reality facing me.

Cursing and beating my dashboard in slow traffic, however, would be extreme and inappropriate emotional reaction to my situation. Such an imbalance of feelings would signal the loss of serenity.

This friend taught me that "serenity" can be a synonym for "sanity:" sound thinking and emotions befitting my situation. It is the insane--not the serene--who cannot accurately assess their situation and match appropriate feeling to it.

To have serenity is to be fully human; capable of the full range of human emotions, and wholly in touch with the feelings befitting our reality.

Beth E.
Forestville, MD
(Washington Area Reporter)

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12-STEPPER UPDATE

___Add ___Remove ___Change

NAME _____

OLD PHONE _____ NEW PHONE _____

OLD ADDRESS _____

NEW ADDRESS _____

SOBRIETY DATE _____

(Please send to CS0, 8804 Tradeway, 78217)

I recently met a newcomer who was holding a resentment toward an "old timer." Nothing new, right! Her complaint stemmed from the fact that she was asked during a meeting of Alcoholics Anonymous if she were an alcoholic. She stated she was. She had introduced herself, however, as an addict which she felt better described her situation. The anger toward this "old timer" was still prevalent several days later.

I was reminded so much of myself, listening to this young lady, because you see when I got here I believed my case to be different also. My terminal uniqueness was attacked by my predecessors from the very beginning. It meant experiencing a lot of anger, fear, and even embarrassment. Today, I thank God that these people cared enough to pick on this newcomer. My terminal uniqueness would have killed me.

I was asked to do, what I believed, to be some of the dumbest, unrelated, simplest things when I got here. But who was I to argue, it was pointed out to me that my way was not working so why not just try this. I had never felt as though I belonged anywhere. If my solution to belonging to AA was as simple as introducing myself as an alcoholic at a meeting of "Alcoholics" Anonymous, I would not hesitate.

Terminal uniqueness is alive and well with our newcomers as it was with me. I keep hearing there are very few straight alcoholics anymore. I am happy to report that there never were. Anyone who has read Bill W. or Dr. Bob's personal stories will discover they also had their experiences with other drugs. So this is not really a new trend. I am told that because I am an alcoholic it is normal for me to be compulsive in other areas of my life. What a neat feeling to be normal at something!

Our singleness of purpose holds as true now as it did 55 years ago. I truly believe the program of Alcoholics Anonymous to be inspired; God's work does not need updating.

My name is Char McM.
I am an alcoholic

THE NIGHTCAP IS ABOUT, BY, AND FOR MEMBERS OF THE AA FELLOWSHIP. OPINIONS EXPRESSED HEREIN ARE NOT TO BE ATTRIBUTED TO ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS AS A WHOLE, NOR DOES PUBLICATION OF ANY ARTICLE IMPLY ANY ENDORSEMENT BY EITHER AA OR THE NIGHTCAP. (Exceptions: Quotations from AA books, pamphlets, and the 12 Steps and/or 12 Traditions are reprinted with permission of AA World Services, Inc.; the AA Preamble, slogans, etc., are reprinted with permission of The Grapevine, Inc.)

The Seventh Tradition

Every A.A. group ought to be fully self-supporting, declining outside contributions.

We do have to be practical. A group can hardly hold its regular meetings on a street corner, and an empty basket won't fill a coffee urn. As soon as we become active in a group, we learn how many expenses are involved in making its meetings effective. Then our horizons broaden. What about that intergroup or central office so many of us called to ask for help? Phone companies don't give free service. Beyond our own locality, we learn about the A.A. General Service Office and the work it does for groups everywhere. A.A. activity is self-supporting at all levels, and in every case the responsibility comes right back to us, the individual members, for we *are* A.A.

Perhaps, especially when we are very new, our contributions clink, rather than rustle. The first members were in the same fix, and it seemed to them that A.A. would need more outside help than the modest gifts then coming in.

Their plans required grand-scale philanthropy. (Tradition Six hadn't evolved yet; Bill W. recalled a scheme for "a chain of hospitals.") But John D. Rockefeller Jr., an early friend, said, "I am afraid that money will spoil this thing." A few A.A.'s had already reached the same conclusion; gradually, this minority became a majority as experience showed that members themselves *could* provide enough to finance A.A.'s proper aim.

In its simplest application, Tradition Seven is easily understood; when we hear about a new A.A. group being started with funds from a Federal antipoverty program, our quick reaction is "Somebody goofed!" But then we come to "borderline" cases: Groups put on a raffle for the benefit of their central office and invite the public to buy tickets; a hometown paper runs an ad for an A.A. dance and show. Both projects would be routine for any other society.

For us, both mean that we've got the hand out again, asking nonmembers for money.

Often, of course, we don't have to ask. A.A. is now high on the worthy-cause list; G.S.O. and groups politely turn down many unsolicited gifts and bequests. In Tradition Seven, there's a note of realism: Handsome gifts may have strings attached. We even put a limit of \$500* on the amount members may leave to A.A. in their wills or contribute annually while living, so that none of us can buy influence in A.A., no matter how rich we are.

Money may pose a different problem if a group treasury grows too fat, beyond a prudent reserve. Squabbling over uses for the spare cash, groups have lost their unity and strayed from their purpose. But there's one simple solution that strengthens our unity and advances our purpose: Give the excess to A.A. activities and services. . . .

*Has been increased to \$1000 since this was printed.



"Passing the basket" at meetings is our way of meeting our responsibility for the work of A.A. Our own contributions support the group, the General Service Office, and all A.A. activities

As active alcoholics we were always looking for a handout—in one way or another...



Part of our personal recovery came in making ourselves into responsible human beings



Experience has shown us, also, that A.A. as a whole needs to be self-supporting and independent

The lure of money has led many astray. It could happen to us.



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July Birthdays

These are the birthdays reported to CSO by various Groups--
if yours isn't here, complain to your Group Secretary
or call it in yourself--we do not keep sobriety records!!

1 Year

Brian A.
Mitch B.
Johnny H.
Tito K.
Bennie L.
Shelly M.
Milton M.
Theodore S.
O. Lewis S.
Gloria S.
Kelli S.
Eleanor S.
Jerry S.
William S.
Michael W.
Tanya W.
Anita Z.
Charles T.
Vaughn M.
Robert B.
Paula A.
Carol R.
Barry M.
Ron A.
Kirk R.
Pat F.
Ralph H., Jr.
Renee T.
Ronnie O.
Sharon C.

2 Years

Bill J.
Erin F.
Kendall A.
Alma B.
Larry C.
Robert C.
Kelly D.
Kathleen F.
Lawrence G.
John H.
Laura L.
Janice P.
Deborah R.
Perry S.
Toby T.
Sandy W.
Maureen W.

3 Years

Pat L.
Becky
Mike W.
Larry N.
Cherry B.
Dan F.
Vi J.
Lauren M.
Jill P.
Barbara R.
Julie W.

4 Years

Joe P.
Lois H.
George B.
Gary K.
Daniel M.
Buddy S.
Barbara S.
Robert I. W.

5 Years

Mike S.
Mary O.
Gary B.
Theresa C.
Mark D.
Leigh S.

6 Years

Geraine C.
Alice C.
Bobbie C.
T. J. D.
Rich G.
John H.
Robin J.
Julia L.
Susan M.
Ray M.
Regina S.

7 Years

Mark A.
Paul G.
Frana M.
Mary M.
Jo S.
Melanie S.

8 Years

Jan C.
John La V.

9 Years

John L.
Julia D.
Jim B.
Buck S.
Grace S.

10 Years

Wally
John P.
Mike C.
Janna M.
Jack S.

11 Years

Al B.
Pledger C.
Dru D.
Dan S.

12 Years

Fritz H.
Bill R.

13 Years

Elias S.
Burney F.
Ed H.
Ralph T.

14 Years

Jeri

15 Years

Gail A.
Vangie H.
Winnie N.

16 Years

Dallas W.
Ellen R.
Garland W.

19 Years

Donald H.

20 Years

Frank S.
Bill St. J.
Ray T.

21 Years

Jesse B.

28 Years

Courtney McA.

30 Years

Art S.

BELATED

MAY

Doug G., 4 Years

JUNE

Steven P., 1 Year
Robert S., Jr., 1 Year
Robin G., 2 Years
Tom C., 2 Years
Jim D., 2 Years
Terri H., 3 Years
Gary D., 6 Years
Paula R., 13 Years
Bette B., 33 Years

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Your Central Service Office sincerely appreciates all of the Birthday contributions. If you wish to contribute for your birthday, most members give one dollar for each year of sobriety. Some contribute a penny for each day of sobriety--any way you want to do it will be appreciated. Birthday contributions for May are shown on page 9, along with donations received from all sources.

We have lots of new items for sale--come in and browse--the coffee pot is always on!!



CONGRATULATIONS &
BEST WISHES
FOR MANY MORE!



July 1990

JUNE
S M T W T F S
3 4 5 6 7 8 9
10 11 12 13 14 15 16
17 18 19 20 21 22 23
24 25 26 27 28 29 30

AUGUST
S M T W T F S
1 2 3 4
5 6 7 8 9 10 11
12 13 14 15 16 17 18
19 20 21 22 23 24 25
26 27 28 29 30 31

SUN MON TUE WED THU FRI SAT

1		3	4 <small>Independence Day</small> CSO CLOSED FOR THE <u>HOLIDAY</u>	5 INTERNATIONAL CONVEN- TION, SEATTLE! Birthday Night at GoLiad*	6 INTERNATIONAL CONVEN- TION, SEATTLE!	7 INTERNATIONAL CONVEN- TION, SEATTLE!
8 Birthday Night at GoLiad* INTERNATIONAL CONVEN- TION, SEATTLE!	9 CSO Board of Trustees meet, 7 p.m.	10	11 PI Committee meets, 6:30 p.m., Club 12.	12 Birthday Night at Grupo Nueva Esperanza	13	14 Southwest Texas Area Workshop, Brownsville.
15 GoLiad Bar-B-Q Southwest Texas Area Workshop, Brownsville General Membership Meeting, 6:30 p.m.,	16	17	18	19	20 <u>DEADLINE FOR NIGHTCAP NEWS ITEMS.</u>	21 Games Night & Spaghetti Dinner, Club 12.
22	23	24	25 Birthday Night at Lytle Group, Oblate, Northwood.	26 Birthdays at: New Acceptance, Stahl Road, North San Pedro	27 Birthdays at: Southwest Loop, Park North, Group 12, El Libro Grande, Freedom, Colonies North, Down- town, Marymont, Schertz (27th Cont.) Games Night at Grupo Nueva Esperanza, Potluck at Marymont, 7 p.m.	28 Club 12 Dance. Birthdays at: Grupo Unidad, Winners, Lamb- da, Frontier, Audubon. Potluck at Lambda.
29	30 Birthday Night at: Alamo Heights, Freedom Big Book, & First Things First	31 Birthday Night at: Valley Hi and Windcrest Groups.				
*GoLiad Group celebrates birthdays each Sunday and Thursday.						

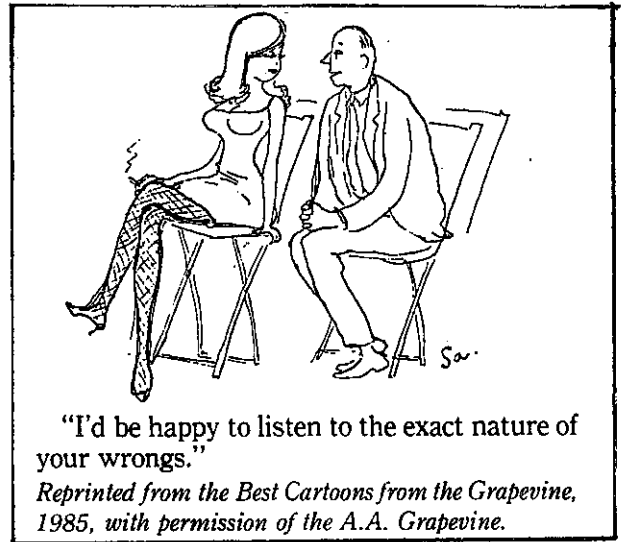
"Come over, Mike, we're having a party," said Charlie on the phone.

"I can't come," whispered Mike. "I've got a bad case of laryngitis here."

"Heck, bring it over - we'll drink anything."

"Mary," complained the lady of the house to her new maid from the country, "I can write my name on the dust on the piano."

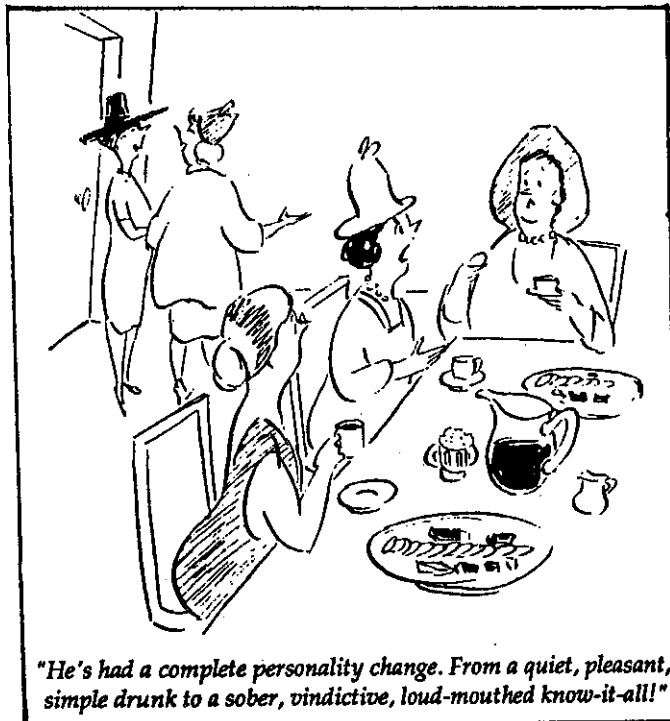
"Oh, my, isn't it wonderful to have an education," marvelled Mary.



"I'd be happy to listen to the exact nature of your wrongs."

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Happy 4th of July 🇺🇸



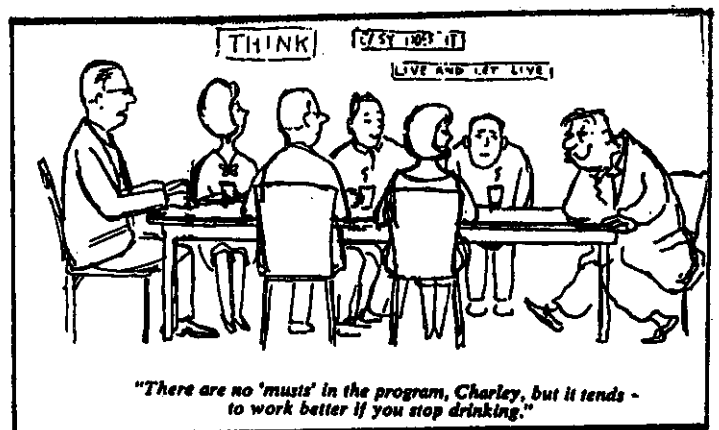
"He's had a complete personality change. From a quiet, pleasant, simple drunk to a sober, vindictive, loud-mouthed know-it-all!"

(Stolen from MIRUS)

Was Carrie Nation the first Al-Anon?

When Burke became a monk he was warned by the Abbot that the rule of silence was very strict. Three years after he was in it he asked for a carpenter to remove the huge nail sticking up through his plank bed and it was done. After five years more he asked for a glass of milk every day because he had developed stomach ulcers. Eight years after this he found he could stick the life no longer and told the Abbot he was leaving.

"Well," said the Abbot, "to tell you the truth, I'm not surprised. You've been complaining ever since you joined."

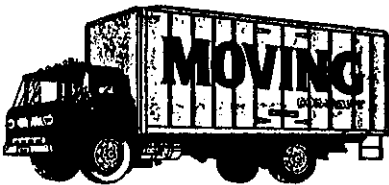


"There are no 'musis' in the program, Charley, but it tends to work better if you stop drinking."

CENTRAL SERVICE OFFICE
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SAN ANTONIO, TX 78217

(Address Correction Requested)

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**LET US KNOW
BEFORE YOU GO!**