

THE NIGHT CAP

Published monthly by the Central Committee
of Alcoholics Anonymous in San Antonio

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Volume Three

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Number Nine



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AN INTERPRETATION OF THE TWELVE STEPS.

STEP SIX: "Were entirely ready to have God remove these defects of character."

In the previous step, we admitted to God, to ourselves, and to another human being the exact nature of our wrongs. These wrongs were the spawn of certain long-standing character defects. In Step Six we become ready and willing to have these character defects removed.

The Step is primarily concerned with an attitude of mind - some would say of "spirit." An attitude of readiness and willingness on our part to give up our character defects. Now, this may be a bit difficult for some of us. We possess certain character traits which we have

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STATE CONVENTION OF AA

The Night Cap, San Antonio Central Office of Alcoholics Anonymous and all A.A. members in San Antonio are pleased to have the honor of entertaining the Texas State Convention of Alcoholics Anonymous on Friday, Saturday and Sunday, June 12, 20 and 21 and bid all delegates and visitors hail and welcome and hope and pray only for your complete enjoyment and entertainment while you are there.

Elsewhere in this issue of The Night Cap will be found a program of the convention.

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ABOUT THE CENTRAL

OFFICE

All A. A. members realize that the best way to solve any problem is to bring it out in the open and discuss it. Everyone knows that the services rendered by the Central Office are invaluable to Southwest Texas and helpful to A. A.s everywhere. But it seems few know that it costs money to operate such an office. The San Antonio Central Office has been in existence for about three years and has been fortunate enough to have retained the same person as its full time secretary. That also is an asset. The Central Office has become recognized as an indispensable part of A. A. in San Antonio. Most of us know that the financing of this office has been somewhat haphazard. By dint of extreme economical care, the office is at this writing solvent. That is all bills are paid and the bank balance is about even. But the need for financing, on a stable basis, is a continuing need. The cost of operation is unbelievably little as compared to the

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THE TWELVE STEPS OF POKER PLAYERS

ANONYMOUS

1. We admitted that we were powerless over Poker — that our antes had become unmanageable.
2. Came to believe that a power greater than ourselves kept stealing the pot.
3. Made a decision to turn our seat over to the first new sucker eligible to play.
4. Made a fearful and searching inventory of our wallets.
5. Admitted to ourselves and to everyone within shouting distance the exact ancestry of all stud dealers.
6. We were entirely ready for the Bouncer to remove these defective characters.
7. Humbly asked for bus fare home.
8. Made a list of all persons we owed and then became willing to tear it up.
9. Made direct excuses and promises to such people, except when it was possible to dodge them.
10. Continued to take financial inventory, and when we had money, promptly denied it!
11. Kept a constant contact with continual winners ... thus reaffirming our desire to stay out!
12. Having had a lousy awakening as a result of loss of money and loss of sleep, we tried to carry this message to other losers and practice dealing until we can hold our own.

THERE, BUT FOR AN ACE IN THE HOLE GO !!

(The Foregoing was composed by Scottie and Curtis, both members of Sahara Club)

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BIRTHDAYS FOR JUNE, 1953.

- 2 years: Dr. Frank J. DeH.,
M. E. "Mike" D.
- 3 years: B. W. "Bill" D.,
George P. K., Ova H. W.
- 4 years: E. C. T.
- 5 years: Arthur E. D., John E.
"Jack" D.
- 6 years: R. H. "Bob" B.; Dorothy
A. H.
- 7 years: Calvert L. F., Guy H.

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Taxes could be a lot worse. Suppose we had to pay on what we think we are worth.

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R.I.P.

Mrs. Maude Lenon Talmadge, 64, died in a Houston Hospital May 16, 1953. Internment at Muncie, Indiana. She was a member of the Harlingen Group of Alcoholics Anonymous.

Maude joined the San Antonio Group November 21, 1945, and she has been continuously and happily sober since that date.

Maude was a good friend and counselor to many, and all who knew her loved her dearly. We shall miss her sorely.

"EXAMINE WHAT IS SAID, NOT HIM WHO SPEAKS."

THE STONECUTTER'S WISH

From ancient China comes the tale of a stonemason - a young man who was very happy and contented with his work, until one day he delivered a piece of stone to the house of a merchant. There he saw a beautiful bed, and he wished aloud, "Oh, if I were only a merchant like that and could have such a beautiful bed!"

Strange to say, the mountain spirit, which sometimes grants wishes heard him.

In the twinkling of an eye, the poor stonemason was changed into a merchant as he wished. He was very happy, until one day a procession passed him. Slaves were carrying a litter and beneath the canopy sat a prince. "Ah, how wonderful to be a prince," he thought. "If only I could be a prince!" Again the mountain spirit heard him and he was a prince.

The next day he was out in the country carried around on the shoulders of his slaves. The hot sun beat down on his head so furiously that in spite of the canopy over his head and the fans of his attendants, he was hot and uncomfortable. Again he thought, "To be a prince is nothing. I wish I were the sun, for it is greater than any man; it is the greatest of all things." And suddenly he was the sun. Now he was happy. He beat down on the hills and valleys and on all men.

And then one day a cloud came between him and the earth, and cut off his rays so that he couldn't reach the earth. He became terribly upset. "Why, that cloud is greater than I," thought he. "I wish I were the cloud!" And the spirit heard him and he became the cloud. So he rained down on the earth to his heart's content, until there were floods everywhere.

Then he came to the mountain. The cloud poured rain on the mountain, but it made no difference. The mountain stood firm.

Now, the cloud was sorrowful. "That mountain is greater than I; I wish I were the mountain!" Instantly, he became the mountain. And he thought, "Now indeed am I the greatest of all."

But the following day a little man climbed the mountain, and with a hammer and chisel started tapping at a slab in his side. The mountain could not stop him and had to bear it silently. "Why, that little man is greater than I," it said. "I wish I were he." So, once more he became a poor stonemason, and lived a long and useful life.

- Adapted from Richard Maxwell
- in JOURNAL OF LIVING.

JUST FOR TODAY

Just for today I will try to live through this day only and not tackle my whole life problem at once. I can do something for twelve hours that would appall me if I felt that I had to keep it up for a lifetime.

Just for today I will be happy. This assumes to be true what Abraham Lincoln said that "Most people are as happy as they make up their minds to be."

Just for today I won't try to adjust everything to my own desires. I will take luck as it comes, and fit myself to it.

Just for today I will try to strengthen my mind. I will study. I will learn something useful. I will not be a mental loafer. I will read something that requires effort, thought, and concentration.

Just for today I will exercise my soul in three ways. I will do somebody a good turn, and not get found out; if anybody knows of it, it will not count. I will do at least two things I do not want to do - just for exercise. I will not show anyone my feelings are hurt; they may be hurt, but today I will not show it.

Just for today I will be agreeable. I will look as nice as I can, dress becomingly, talk low, act courteously, criticize not one bit, not find fault with anything, and not try to improve or regulate anybody but myself.

Just for today I will have a program. I may not follow it exactly, but I will have it. I will save myself from two pests: hurry and indecision.

Just for today I will be unafraid. Especially I will not be afraid to enjoy what is beautiful, and to believe that as I give to the world, so the world will give to me.

- THE KEY -

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ABOUT THE CENTRAL OFFICE (Cont'd ...)

service given. The contacts made in the past are sufficient reason for the continuation of the office. YOU can help the Central Office in many ways. But the best way would be to make a regular contribution of money. If each member of A.A. in San Antonio would donate even \$1 a month, the financial problem would be solved.

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ABOUT THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE.. (Concluded)

Another way you can help and receive something in return would be to subscribe to The Night Cap. The price of a year's subscription is \$2.50. You would receive 12 issues and the Central Office would get whatever profit accrues from the operation. Nobody gets paid for the creation of The Night Cap. It is a labor of love. And in it are printed stories of interest to all A. A. everywhere. Send that subscription N O W!

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THE MALADJUSTED PERSONALITY. . .

Success in rowing a boat straight arises from the ability to pull with equal force on both oars. Just as soon as we begin to pull a little more on one oar than on the other, the boat begins to turn. If we stop pulling on one oar altogether and pull vigorously on the other, the boat goes around in a circle.

Psychologists are telling us a great deal these days about twisted and maladjusted personalities. The science of psychology is undoubtedly overemphasized, and the psychologist and the psychiatrist claim to know all the answers in many fields where neither they nor anybody else has been able to give satisfactory answers to any considerable number of pressing questions. But the twisted and maladjusted personality is nevertheless a real person in the world.

Largely he is the victim of too much of some one particular thing. He may be the victim of too much liquor, of too much work, or too great a love for money, or too much selfishness, or a devastating sensuality. His life keeps going about in a circle because he insists on pulling away on one oar all the time instead of keeping his life in a straight line by balancing his powers between two oars.

Balance! The Greeks knew the value of balance and acclaimed it. They were the world's wisest people.

.... By Earl L. Douglas

"And having thus chosen our course, without guile, and with pure purpose, let us renew our trust in the justice of God, and go forward without fear, and with manly hearts."

- Abraham Lincoln

AN INTERPRETATION OF THE 12 STEPS (Cont'd from Page 1)

spent years in careful and diligent nurturing, calculated cultivation, and otherwise bringing to their present state of depravity, and we cherish these shortcomings as the miser his gold.

But we must recognize this as an Either-Or proposition. If it requires in order that we may be delivered from bondage to alcohol, a complete sacrifice of all the mean, chiseling, conniving, and utterly contemptible traits we spent so many years in perfecting, then these cherished traits must go.

The important thing here is willingness to give up our shortcomings. Their actual removal is taken up in the next Step.

... Merrill L. "Doc" F.

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"Most all sorrows can swim; no need to try to drown them."

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- - - - AWFUL UNCERTAINTY
- - - - OF THE FUTURE

It is a gloomy moment in history. Not in the lifetime of any man who reads this paper has there been so much grave and deep apprehension; never has the future seemed so dark and incalculable.

In France, the political cauldron seethes and bubbles with uncertainty.

England and the English Empire is being sorely tried and exhausted in a social and economic struggle, with turmoil at home and uprising of her teeming millions in her far-flung Indian Empire.

The United States is beset with racial industrial and commercial chaos - drifting, we know not where.

Russia hangs like a storm cloud on the horizon of Europe - dark and silent. It is a solemn moment, and no man can feel indifference, which happily no man pretends to see in the issue of events.

Of our own troubles, no man can see the end.

- Harper's Magazine, October, 1847

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"Think carefully before you condemn yourself. Condemnation breeds a feeling of inferiority, and a feeling of inferiority leads to an inferior way of living." - Rim

* * * PROGRAM, 8TH TEXAS STATE CONVENTION OF ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS
 JUNE 12, 20, 21, 1952 . . . SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS * * * *

FRIDAY, JUNE 19th.

9:00 A.M. Registration - Mezzanine
 9:00 A.M. Coffee Bar Opens - Mezzanine
 2:30 P.M. Everybody talks - Ballroom
 8:00 P.M. Opening General Session - Ballroom
 MC: Edward M. "H", Austin
 Invocation: Dr. Kenneth W. Copeland
 Welcome by Conference Chairman
 Speakers: O. B. "J" Roswell, New Mexico
 " Bishop Everett H. Jones

SATURDAY, JUNE 20th.

7:00 A.M. Delegates Breakfast \$1.50 per plate - Ballroom
 8:00 A.M. Coffee Bar Opens - Mezzanine
 9:00 A.M. Morning General Session - Ballroom
 M.C.: Jim "W" Amarillo
 Invocation: Rev. W. Earl Waldrop
 Welcoming Address: Judge Charles W. Anderson
 General Service Conference (4) Delegates Report
 Speakers: Robert W. "T", Gulfport, Mississippi
 " Rev. Roy Rihn

12 Noon Ladies Luncheon \$1.75 per plate - Roof Garden

2:00 P.M. Meeting of Non AA.s - Roof Garden
 M.C.: Eloise "C", Austin
 Speakers: Hal "H", San Angelo
 " Gene "P", Corpus Christi,
 " Dr. Ross Owens, M.D.
 " Peggy "M", Dallas

2:00 P.M. Closed Meeting of AAs - Ballroom
 M.D.: Morris "McF", Tyler
 Speakers: Mary Catherine "B", Houston
 " Marge "N", Dallas
 " H. T. "B", Dallas

7:00 P.M. Convention Banquet \$5.00 per person - Ballroom
 M.C.: Jack "E", Wichita Falls
 Speakers: Dick "F", Dallas

9:00 P.M. Floor Show - Ballroom
 10:00 P.M. Convention Dance - Ballroom
 Refreshments

SUNDAY, JUNE 12st

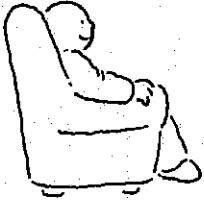
8:00 A.M. Coffee Bar Opens - Mezzanine
 9:30 A.M. Closing Session of Convention - Ballroom
 M.C.: Macon "F", Coleman
 Speakers: Dr. Will "M", M.D., Corsicana

IMPORTANT CLARIFICATION: The Convention Registration Fee \$5.00 (Both A.A. and Non A.A.) does not include reservations for Banquet-Floor Show - Dance-Ladies Luncheon or Delegates Breakfast. All convention sessions and entertainment will be held in the spacious Plaza Hotel and it is optional to make reservations for Banquet-Floor Show-Dance-Ladies Luncheon or Delegates Breakfast....

KEEP IT SIMPLE

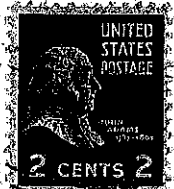
Here are the old copies of the
nightcap I told you about
Hope you enjoy them as
much as I did

Dois Bassett



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Have
Laminated



Secretary
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420 Peoples Street
Corpus Christi, Texas

Bof
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