

the nightcap



SOUTHWEST TEXAS AREA

VOLUME EIGHT

JUNE 1980

NUMBER SIX

EDITOR?

SERVICE

As you read thru this copy of the Nightcap, you will come to understand that we desperately need an EDITOR for this publication. The mail clerk is putting it out now. Let me reword that --The mail clerk is attempting to help out. AA deserves better than that.

The qualifications are simple; honest, open-minded and willing. The pay consists of fringe benefits--the harder you work, the more benefits. You get free advise and criticism. You don't have to worry about mistakes, they will be called to your attention after the Nightcap has been printed.

We wish to thank our previous editor, Floyd Y, for services well performed. As you can see, Floyd, we miss you.

Volunteers please call the Central Service Office. 226-2523. If the line is busy, keep trying--a lot of people will want this job.

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"If I were to read, much less answer, all the attacks made on me, this shop might as well be closed for any other business. I do the very best I know how ---the very best I can; and I mean to keep on doing so until the end. If the end brings me wrong, then ten angels swearing I was right would make no difference."

Rr-Nixon-
A. Lincoln

THE NIGHTCAP is published monthly by Central Service Office of Alcoholics Anonymous in the interest of greater unity of members in local-Southwest Texas Area Groups. Address all communications to the NIGHTCAP, 109 Lexington Ave, Suite 215, San Antonio, Tx 78205. The deadline for articles to be published is the twentieth day of the month preceding publication.

According to the Second Tradition, our leaders are but trusted servants; they do not govern. Is your group's trusted servants serving satisfactorily? Do you know who they are? Is everyone given the opportunity to serve by rotating the elected officials periodically? Are your meetings planned ahead of time? Does your group have regular business meetings where problems, suggestions and financial affairs are discussed openly?

Who is your General Service Representative? Does your group have an alternate GSR? Does your GSR or alternate care enough to attend the monthly Central Service Office Committee and GSR meetings? Does your group allow time for the GSR to make a report?

What kind of a group would you have if everyone in it was just like you? That's a lot of questions--you answer them.

Al D, Mail Clerk

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We care, of course, what other people think. Those who say otherwise are deceiving themselves. But we must not be unduly influenced by the comments and opinion of others.

Unknown.....

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Albert G. was overheard to say at a Georgia rattlesnake round-up: "Don't drink the moonshine, it gives you too much courage."

Get on the mailing list for THE NIGHTCAP by joining the BUCK-A-MONTH Club.....

Enclosed is \$_____, my contribution to the BUCK-A-MONTH Club for _____ months.

NAME

ADDRESS

ZIP

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Our delegate to the General Service Conference, Raul M., will give a report on the conference at Club 12, June 8th, 7:00 PM at the GSOC and GSR meeting. All DCM's and GSR's and interested members of AA are URGED to attend.

NEW GROUP: Coker AA Group will meet at the United Methodist Church, 231 East Loop North. Closed discussion at 8:15 PM, Wednesdays. Alanon meets concurrently.

YOUNG PEOPLE'S MEETINGS:

Wednesday at 8:00 PM. 235 W Mistletoe, open discussion. Contact "Red" at 736-0490.

Sunday at 8:00 PM. 7226 Blanco Road, Spanish Trace Apts, #2403. Open discussion. Contact Ginnie at 349-7275.

The Colonies North AA Group's meeting on Wednesdays have been changed from Open Step Study to CLOSED Step Study. Fridays meeting remains OPEN discussion.

CORRECTION TO MEETING DIRECTORY:

The LAMBDA GROUP contact number is changed to 822-6559 or after 5:00 PM, 656-8740.

There will be an organizational meeting, Sunday, June 15th, 7:00 PM at the Downtown Group Meeting place, 110 McCullough concerning couples and/or those living together interested in forming a COUPLES GROUP. For more information contact Pete G. between 5:00 - 7:00 PM at 349-3235.

INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION:

There will be no charter flight from S. A. to New Orleans for the International Convention. Attempts to get one together failed.

Keep It Simple Stupid.....

GROUP BARBECUES AND DINNERS

Group 12. - Last Saturday, 7:00 PM, dinner and games. Second Saturday, Covered dish supper, 7:00 PM.

Goliad Group. - Third Sunday, barbecue at 6:00 PM.

24-Hour Service Group. - Last Sunday, dinner 5:15 PM, meeting follows at 6:30.

Haven Group. - Second Sunday, Texas style barbecue. Serving time is from 2:30 thru 4:30 PM. Adults \$3.00, Children under 12, \$1.50. Regular meeting to follow at 5:00 PM.

The HAVEN GROUP has three meetings a week as follows:

- Tuesday Open Discussion - 8:15PM
- Saturday Open Speakers - 8:15PM
- Sunday Open Speakers - 5:00PM

They could use our support. 1040 West Woodlawn.

VILLA ROSA AA GROUP. - Open Speakers and discussion meetings, Tuesday, 8:15 PM. Groups responsible for the meetings in June are:

- Sunset Group June 3
- Sunset Group June 10
- Goliad Group June 17
- Broadway Group June 24

SALLY AA GROUP. - Open Speakers meeting, Wednesday, 8:15 PM. 1324 S. Flores.

Groups responsible for meetings in June are:

- Stepping Stones June 4
- Stepping Stones June 11
- Stepping Stones June 18
- Grupo Unidad June 25

FIRST ANNUAL TEXAS ROUND-UP OF YOUNG PEOPLE IN AA will be held June 6, 7 and 8 at the El Tropicano Hotel. Come and support this vital need and be a part of the theme "A PART OF-AND NOT APART FROM." Registration begins 6 June at 2:00 PM. Young speakers, Alanon luncheon, Banquet, Dance & Business Meeting. For more information contact David S. 341-5912.

TEXAS STATE AA CONVENTION JUNE 5 - 8

Austin's Hilton Inn has been chosen as the site of the 35th Annual Texas State A. A. Convention.

The convention theme, "Manageability Through Powerlessness", embodies "the principle that we shall find no enduring strength until we first admit complete defeat is the main taproot from which our whole society has sprung and flowered", and was lifted from Page 22, Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions.

Registration and dance, \$12.00. Delegates breakfast, \$5.50 and Alateen \$2.00. Make checks payable to Texas State AA Convention, P.O. Box 14992, Austin, Tex.

Make room reservations directly to Austin Hilton Inn, IH 35 at U. S. 290 East, 6000 Middle Fiskville Rd, Austin, Texas, 512-451-5757 or call your local Hilton Inn for special rates--\$32 single, \$39 double. Please specify AA Convention. (Ample parking space is available.)

The convention opens June 5 at 8:00 PM. Co-chairmen: Homer R. Houston and Evelyn K, Lamesa. Speakers from audience.)

Featured speakers June 6 are Gene F, Hot Springs, Ark; Dottie H, Lakewood, Cal, and Joe P, Atlanta, Ga. June 7: Eve M, Ft. Lauderdale, Fla, Johnnie H, Lakewood, Cal, Neil P, Newport Beach, Cal., and Nell L, Alanon, Waureka, Okla.

June 8: Joe Mc, Little Rock, Ark, Some meetings start at 10:00 AM so be there early.

See you there!

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HISPANIC FUND RAISER A SUCCESS

A packed house enjoyed a meeting, supper and dance at Christ The King Church cafeteria on May 3. The purpose was to raise funds for the Eighth Annual Spanish Speaking AA Convention.

The speakers, Jim W and Carmina C, the food, live music, and fellowship were excellent, delicious, bueno/loud, and a lot of, in that order. Roland R chaired the meeting supported by his mother.

The Nightcap will have full pre-convention details in the August issue. The convention will be August 29, 30 and 31 at the El Tropicano Hotel.

PUBLIC INFO COMMITTEE STATISTICS

As you can see, our people on the Public Information Committee have been rather busy carrying the message. The people who staff the committee are dedicated, hard-working AA's, who voluntarily give their time and their energies to this important work. They carried the message by giving talks, lectures and showing films. We thank them.....

APRIL

- 16 - Adult Probation, Bill S
- 21 - Randolph AFB Rotary Club, Bill S
- 21 - Kerper House, Michael C
- 22 - San Antonio College, Bill S
- 22 - South San High School, Joe G
- 23 - Sul Ross Middle School, Durney F & Vangie H
- 23 - San Antonio College, Jo Ann S
- 23 - San Antonio College, Jerry B
- 24 - Samuel Clements High School, Edyie O, Sean O'M, Jo Ann S
- 24 - Patrician Movement, Bill S
- 24 - Kelly AFB Social Actions, Tommie D
- 27 - UT Health Science Center, Bill S
- 27 - Club 12, Alanon, Van D
- 28 - San Antonio College, Jo Ann S
- 29 - Alamo Heights High School, Helen T, Sean O'M, Jo Ann S
- 30 - Alamo Heights High School, Sean O'M

MAY

- 1 - Churchill High School, Laurie W, Max B, Bill F
- 1 - St Patrick's Middle School, Judy A
- 7 - Adult Probation, Bill S
- 8 - St Teresa's Academy, Jerry B
- 8 - Burbank High School, Jo Ann S
- 8 - Patrician Movement, Tony N
- 13 - Memorial High School, Joe G
- 15 - Ed White Middle School, Laurie W, Jo Ann S
- 15 - Northside & Northeast Independant School Districts at the Blossom Athletic Center, 9:00 AM - 9:00PM. Teachers, parents and school leaders. Joe G

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Conscience is the still, small voice within - where the acoustics are so bad.

DEFECTS? FORGET 'EM!

For the first couple of years I was in AA, I kept hearing people saying they were "working on their defects" or they were having "trouble getting rid of their defects."

I assumed they knew what they were talking about. I felt I would have to "work on my defects" or I would never change.

Nothing could be further from the truth.

My sponsor straightened me out on this pronto. He said: "The Big Book does not say a word about you getting rid of your defects yourself. What it does say is that you can become AWARE of your defects by working the 4th Step thoroughly. Then it says you can get rid of most of the garbage by doing a good 5th Step."

He went on: "You can't get rid of your defects directly but you can do it indirectly...by working the Twelve Steps thoroughly. In Step 2 it says we believe that a POWER greater than ourselves can restore us. In Step 6 we say we are entirely ready to have GOD remove our defects, and, in Step 7 we humbly ask HIM to remove our shortcomings. Nowhere does it say that YOU have any power to get rid of them. Get the idea?"

"Yes," I replied, "it sounds like an easy way to grow."

"Oh, it isn't easy," he explained. But it's a heck of a lot easier than butting your head against a brick wall to knock out a headache!"

He ended with this clincher: "Look at the promises in the Big Book. It says if we are PAINSTAKING about working the steps, we will begin to know FREEDOM and a new HAPPINESS. We will know serenity and peace of mind. We will realize that GOD is doing for us what we could not do for ourselves!"

I learned from him that I don't have to worry about my defects because they will be removed FOR ME if I just WORK THE STEPS!

G. L. San Antonio

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People who stop going to meetings are not there to find out what happens to people who stop going to meetings!!

GSR's and CSOC MEMBERS TO MEET JUN 8

General Service Representatives and Central Service Office Committee members will meet at 7:00 PM Sunday, June 8 at Club 12.

The Administrative Board will not meet.

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IN MEMORIUM

Doreen Parks, May
To the family and friends of Doreen we extend our sincere sympathy and prayers.

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CSO STATISTICS FROM APRIL 16 TO MAY 15

AA	257
Alanon	40
Information	124
Public Information	5
Students	4

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A.A.'s SCHOOL OF LIFE

Within AA, I suppose, we shall always quarrel a good bit. Mostly, I think, about how to do the greatest good for the greatest number of drunks. We shall have our childish spats and snits over small questions of money management and who is going to run our groups for the next six months. Any bunch of growing children (and that is what we are) would hardly be in character if they did less.

These are the growing pains of infancy and we actually thrive on them. Surmounting such problems, in A. A.'s rather rugged school of life, is a healthy exercise.

A.A. Comes of Age, P 233

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MIXED METAPHORS

As the endless meeting of a Central Service Office Committee wore on, one of the participants announced: "It's time to fish and cut bait." To which another replied: "This project should be moving ahead rickety-split." Not to be outdone, a third said: "This problem started small, but it is basebailing."

CHARMING IS THE WORD FOR ALCOHOLICS

"Down at the very bottom of the social scale of AA society are the pariahs, the untouchables, and the outcasts, all underprivileged and known by one exorciating epithet--relatives.

I am a relative; I know my place. I am not complaining. But I hope no one will mind if I venture the plaintive confession that there are times; oh, many, many times, that I wish I had been an alcoholic. By this I mean, I wish I were an AA. The reason for that is, that I consider the AA people the most charming in the world.

Such is my considered opinion. As a journalist, it has been my fortune to meet many of the people who are considered charming. I number my friends, stars and lesser lights of stage and cinema; writers are my daily diet. I know the ladies and gentlemen of both political parties; I have broken bread with kings and ministers and ambassadors, and I say after that catalog, which could be extended, that I would prefer an evening with AA friends to any person or group of persons I have indicated. I ask myself why I consider so charming these alcoholic caterpillars who have found their butterfly wings in Alcoholics Anonymous. There are more reasons than one, but I can name a few.

The AA people are what they are, and they were what they were. Because they are sensitive, imaginative, possessed of a sense of humor and awareness of universal truth. They are sensitive, which means they are hurt easily, and that helped them become alcoholics. But they have found in their restoration they are still as sensitive as ever; responsive to beauty and to truth and eager about intangible glories of this life. That makes them charming companions.

They are imaginative, and that helped make them alcoholics. Some of them drank to flog their ambition onto greater efforts. Other guzzled only to black out unendurable demons that rose in their imagination. But when they found their restoration, their imagination is responsive to new incantations, their talk abounds with color and light, and makes them charming companions, too.

They are possessed with a sense of humor. Even in their cups they have been known to say damnable funny things. OFTEN IT WAS BEING FORCED TO TAKE SERIOUSLY THE LITTLE AND MEAN THINGS OF LIFE that made them seek escape in a bottle. But when they have found their restoration, their sense of humor finds a blessed freedom, and they are able to reach a god-like state where they can laugh at themselves, the very height of self-conquest. Go to the meetings and listen to the laughter. At what are they laughing? At ghoulish memories over which weaker souls would cringe in useless remorse. And that makes them wonderful people to be with by candle-light.

They are possessed of a sense of universal truth. That is often a new thing in their hearts. The fact that this is at-one-ment with God's universe had never awakened in them is sometimes the reason why they drank. The fact that it was at last awakened is almost always the reason why they were restored to the good and simple ways of life. Stand with them when the meeting is over, and listen while they say "Our Father..." They have found a greater power than themselves which they diligently serve. And that gives them a charm that never was elsewhere on land or sea. It makes you know that God, Himself, is really charming, because the AA people reflect his mercy and forgiveness."

Reprint from TODAY IN AA

By. . . .Fulton Ousler

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Once at a meeting, a speaker went on and on and on. The chairman, in an effort to calm the restless audience, pounded his hammer on what he thought was the table, but actually on the bald head of a listener directly in the front. As the man's head snapped down, he cried, "Hit me again, I can still hear him".

CENTRAL SERVICE OFFICE - SAN ANTONIO

RECEIVED MAY 15, 1980

<u>GROUP</u>	<u>MAY</u>	<u>TO DATE</u>	<u>GROUP</u>	<u>MAY</u>	<u>TO DATE</u>
Alamo Heights	15.00	75.00	Park North (W)	75.00	150.00
Audubon	0	0	Randolph Fellowship	0	10.00
Broadway	45.00	210.00	Reality	5.00	15.00
Callaghan	25.00	125.00	Reliance	0	0
Colonies North	0	255.00	Sahara	0	0
Downtown	0	0	SASH	0	5.00
Eisenhauer	10.00	15.00	Santa Fe	0	0
First Step	0	30.00	Serenity	15.00	75.00
Ft. Sam Houston	25.00	150.00	Southwest Loop	0	50.00
Frontier	0	20.00	Spiritual Life	0	0
Goliad	20.00	55.00	Stepping Stones	25.00	130.00
Group 12	100.00	625.00	Sunrise	0	0
Grupo Del Sol	0	10.00	Sunset	15.00	90.00
Grupo Unidad	0	20.00	Tejas	50.00	165.00
Highlands	20.00	120.00	The Haven	40.00	80.00
Hope	0	0	Triangle	0	0
Kingsboro	0	0	24 Hour	0	0
Lambda	5.00	25.00	Universal City	0	60.00
Laurel Heights	20.00	85.00	VA Hospital	25.00	25.00
Marymont	25.00	50.00	Valley High	20.00	80.00
Northeast	0	45.00	Villa Rosa	25.00	100.00
N. San Pedro	0	100.00	Wesley	0	6.00
Northwest	40.00	100.00	Wilford Hall	0	0
Northwood	100.00	200.00	Windcrest	0	60.00
Open Door	0	0	Young People	20.00	35.00
Park North (F)	0	80.00			

27 Groups.....\$855.00

Buck-A-Month.....\$169.30

AREA

Brazos Valley	0	15.00	Lytle	0	0
Bridge (HB)	0	0	New Braunfels	0	0
Caldwell Group	15.00	15.00	New Braunfels (Home Gp)	0	5.00
Cameron Group	0	8.00	Pearsall	60.00	60.00
Canyon Lake	0	10.00	Pleasanton	0	0
Floresville	15.00	30.00	Rockdale Group	0	8.00
Fredericksburg	0	0	Seguin	0	0
Hill Country Group	0	0	Sliding Door (Corpus)	0	10.00
Kerrville	0	0	Women's Serenity	0	0
Kerrville-Eag Book	0	25.00	Kerrville	0	0

MEMORIALS

For Gayle Mercer-Alamo Heights Group, Garnett I., Hed C., Margaret and Bill H.

For Renee Marin from Glenn and Trish F.

For Beth's Mother, Elizabeth from Garnett I., Glenn and Trish F., Merle and Gene D.

For Doreen Parks from Leslie R.

For Joe Aycock from B.T. Washington High School

INDIVIDUAL CONTRIBUTIONS

Two Anonymous Contributions