



The Nightcap

PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY CENTRAL SERVICE OFFICE

AA IN SOUTHWEST TEXAS

103 RENNER, SAN ANTONIO, TX 78201 PHONE NUMBER 512-733-7562

VOL 10

JUN 1982

NUMBER 6

WHEN DID ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS BEGIN???

Someone asked me the other day "When did Alcoholics Anonymous actually begin?" It seemed like an easy question.

Without hesitation I replied emphatically, "I thought everybody knew that. It started when Bill W. had his religious experience in the hospital in 1935."

My listener was impressed but then probed further, "But what was the exact date in 1935?"

That stumped me. But not for long. A little research in the Big Book and AA Comes of Age shed light on my ignorance and also showed me that I was all wrong about the date being based on Bill's sobriety.

There it was on the first page of "Doctor Bob's Nightmare", and I quote: "The birth of our Society dates from his (Dr Bob's) first day of permanent sobriety, June 10, 1935." Live and learn!

But why Dr Bob's sobriety date instead of Bill W's?

Because, though the basic principle of staying sober by helping others to recover was in Bill's mind, it had not been correctly applied to anyone else before Dr Bob. He was the first. It takes two to form an AA group and Bill and Bob were the chosen ones.

AA actually began to work on the day Dr Bob took his last drink--June 10, 1935. On June 10, 1982, Alcoholics Anonymous will be 47 years young.

SACSO

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FAREWELL TO SARGE

"My name is Harold, and I am an alcoholic." We will not be hearing that anymore from Harold S., our good friend known as "Sarge."

On April 26th, Sarge died after more than 20 years sobriety. Sarge loved AA with a burning enthusiasm which we saw in his regular attendance at meetings and his warm, outgoing, almost gruff manner of speaking at the podium. But he was always smiling that big, friendly grin we all loved.

Yes, his heart was full of love and he helped many beginners in our fellowship.

He has gone to join his beloved wife Florence who left us not long ago.

Sarge was a splendid example of what our fellowship can do to restore anyone who thoroughly follows our path.

We shall miss him very much...

Only Step One, where we made the 100 percent admission we were powerless over alcohol, can be practiced with absolute perfection. The remaining eleven steps state perfect ideals. They are goals toward which we look, and the measuring sticks by which we estimate our progress.

ANNIVERSARY MEETING AND DANCE

The 37th Anniversary celebration of AA in San Antonio will go down in history as one of the more successful events held by AA. Plans were made to accomodate 220 live ones and 260 showed up. Thanks are given to Sunny M. for all the preparation and hard work she did as Chairman and to all the committees that assisted her. The Central Service Office cleared about \$950.00.

The speakers, Harold P., Arthur C. and Mona S. followed Bishop Jones's personal account of AA in the early days. All the speakers had over 30 years sobriety (just barely for Sunny M.) and even after that long, some alcoholic tendencies were still displayed. Some of the speakers grumbled about being limited to a certain time and a specific subject. Which is, to us, typical, normal, average and understandable.

The Medina Mud Band was on hand early and raring to go. Quite a few of them brought their instruments and the music was excellent.

We only used about half of the tickets that were printed by Roland R. We wanted to get a refund on the half we didn't use but half of nothing is still nothing. The colored stock he used to print the tickets on must have been turned down by some other customer. Thanks anyway, Roland.

Did you hear the story Bishop Jones told about the drunk that called him collect and the Bishop wouldn't accept the charges? The drunk discussed it with the operator and the operator came back on the line and wanted to know if he would pay half of the charges. Cunning, baffling and powerful...

We thank the individuals and groups that donated refreshments. The following groups donated CASH: Frontier, Wilford Hall, Park North, V.A. Hospital, Tejas, Laurel Heights, Ft. Sam Houston, Serenity, Goliad, Grupo Unidad, Colonies North, Group 12, Open Door, North San Pedro, Marymont and Callaghan. Thank you...

We also want to thank the Director of Maintenance of the Jewish Community Center for his assistance. We drew on his vast experience catering banquets and ordered 200 cups of coffee and 100 cups of tea. He said that would be plenty. We drank 480 cups of coffee and 200 cups of tea. We asked him what went wrong and he said the people were using the iced tea cups for coffee. We could have told him that.

Thanks again to everyone.

CSO

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CRUISING...ONE DAY AT A TIME...

Earlier this month Jim & Kathy W., Manford & Helen M. and their daughter Betty, all took off for a week in Bermuda via New York City. Helen agreed to go when she found out there was gambling on the cruise ship and she could sleep 'till 2:00 PM. Manford said he's going along to count her winnings at the tables and to make sure she got up in time for dinner. You might remember Manford used to be called "Bud" but he has reverted to his old name because it is too easy for people to say, "Hey Bud, can you spare a dollar"?

Secretly, their real purpose in going was to start an AA group on board the ship which they called the "Sink or Swim" group. Jim W. was chairman at the first meeting and Kathy rounded up the Al-anon's to spy on the AA's.

Jim's subject at the first meeting was "How Deep is the Ocean?" At the second meeting it was "How High is the Sky?" Jim is very good at these kinds of topics.

Mixed feelings have been expressed about their return. You see--they all took cameras with them. It is suggested that you should try to avoid them the first few days they are back. Otherwise, you will have to look at a lot of slides of the Statue of Liberty, the ocean, the moon, group shots, a flying fish dead on deck, palm trees, sand and other quaint things.

GROUP ANNOUNCEMENTS

TWENTY-FOUR HOUR GROUP has changed its name to the PHOENIX GROUP. Location is still 1203 Fredericksburg Road and they will continue to have their regular monthly dinner on the last Sunday of each month at 5:00 PM for a donation of \$2.50 per person. Mexican dinner for May with a meeting at 6:30 PM.

SCHERTZ GROUP has an open Brown Baggers Lunch Brunch on Monday, Thursday and Friday from 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM. Also on Thursday at 8:15 PM there is a closed Big Book Study meeting.

GROUP 12 is adding three new meetings on Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 5:30 to 6:30 PM. Closed discussion.

WESLEY GROUP will celebrate their 26th Anniversary, Saturday, May 29, 1982. Christ the King Catholic Church, 2610 Perez, Room 13. Chairman, Juan R.; Guest, Reverend Jancek; Speaker, Ignasia H. 6:00 to 7:00 PM, Speaker. 7:00 to 8:00 PM, Dinner and a dance from 9:00 to 12:00 PM.

V.A. HOSPITAL GROUP will celebrate their 4th Anniversary on July 29th at 8:15 PM. Open speakers meeting. Speakers will be announced later. Refreshments will be served...

FRONTIER (ARC) MEETINGS

June 5, 12, 19, 26 will be the responsibility of the STEPPING STONES GROUP.

July 3, 10 - SOUTHWEST LOOP GROUP
July 17, 24, 31 - GROUP 12

VILLA ROSA MEETINGS

June 1 - GROUP 12 June 8, 15 - SUNSET
June 22 - GOLIAD June 29 - BROADWAY

July 6 - WINDCREST July 13 - GOLIAD
July 20 - BROADWAY July 27 - VALLEY -HI

FRONTIER GROUP which meets at the Alcoholic Rehabilitation Center wants you to mark your calendar for Sunday, June 20, 1982. There will be a board meeting at 2:00 PM, an AA meeting at 2:30 PM and a Barbeque at 3:30 PM. Everyone is invited. A donation will be required for the food. Larry Y. will chair the meeting.

ADMINISTRATIVE BOARD of the Central Service Office will meet at CSO on June 9, 1982 at 7:00 PM. Wednesday.

CENTRAL SERVICE OFFICE COMMITTEE (GSR) meeting will meet Sunday, June 13, 1982 at Club 12, 7:00 PM.

4TH ANNUAL HILL COUNTRY ROUNDUP, Inn of the Hills, Kerrville, Tx.; July 30 to Aug 1, 1982. Registration \$15.00 for AA's & Al-Anons, \$1.00 for Alateens. Mail to P.O. Box 2153, Kerrville, Tx 78028.

37TH ANNUAL TEXAS STATE CONVENTION, June 24 thru 27th in Dallas, Tx. Marriott Hotel, 2101 N Stemmons Frwy. Hotel reservations must be made by June 3 on their card to qualify for special discount rates.

DELEGATES REPORT will be given by Clyde M. on Sunday, June 6th, 2:00 PM at the 24 Hour Club, 1411 Oltorf St, Austin, Tx.

SALLY MEETINGS

June 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 will be the responsibility of the HAVEN GROUP.

July 7 and 14th - UNITY GROUP.
July 21 and 28th - LITTLE GROUP

DETOX MEETINGS

June 3, 10, 17, 24 Jim B. Coordinator
July 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 Linda G. & Rudy Z.

Contact for the ARC, Sally & Detox is Linda G., Phone 923-8738. For the Villa Rosa meeting, the contact is Wallace R., Phone 822-3425.

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

1. IS IT POSSIBLE FOR AN ALCOHOLIC TO BECOME A "SOCIAL" DRINKER AGAIN?

ANSWER: (Big Book, p. 30) "The delusion that we are like other people, or presently may be, has to be smashed. We alcoholics...have lost the ability to control our drinking. We know that no real alcoholic ever recovers control."

2. WHAT CAN HAPPEN TO AN ALCOHOLIC IN AA WHO DOES NOT TRY TO CARRY THE MESSAGE?

ANSWER: (Big Book, p. 14-15) "...if an alcoholic failed to perfect and enlarge his spiritual life through work and self-sacrifice for others, he could not survive the certain trials and low spots ahead. If he did not work, he would surely drink again, and if he drank, he would surely die."

3. WHY IS THE 5TH STEP SO VITALLY IMPORTANT TO A RECOVERING ALCOHOLIC?

ANSWER: (Big Book, p. 72-73) "If we skip this vital step, we may not overcome drinking. Time after time newcomers have tried to keep to themselves certain facts about their lives. Trying to avoid this humbling experience, they have turned to easier methods. Almost invariably they got drunk...They had not learned enough of humility, fearlessness and honesty...until they told someone else all their life story."

4. ARE WOMEN PARTICULARLY AFFECTED BY DRINKING?

ANSWER: (Big Book, p. 33) "To be gravely affected, one does not necessarily have to drink a long time nor take the quantities some of us have. This is particularly true of women. Potential female alcoholics often turn into the real thing and are gone beyond recall in a few years."

5. WHAT IS THE BEST DEFENSE AGAINST THE FIRST DRINK?

ANSWER: (Big Book, p. 43) "The alcoholic at certain times has no effective mental defense against the first drink. Except in a few rare cases, neither he or any human being can provide such a defense. His defense must come from a Higher Power."

6. WHAT IS THE MAIN OBJECTIVE OF THE BIG BOOK?

ANSWER: (Big Book, p. 45) "Its main object is to enable you to find a Power greater than yourself which will solve your problem."

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IF YOU THINK EVERY DAY ISN'T GREAT, TRY MISSING ONE...



What Does A.A. NOT Do?

A.A. does not (1) furnish initial motivation for alcoholics to recover, solicit members or try to persuade anyone to join A.A.; (2) keep membership records or case histories; (3) engage in sponsor research; (4) join "councils" of social agencies, although A.A. members, groups and service offices frequently cooperate with them; (5) follow up or try to control its members; (6) make medical or psychological diagnoses or prognoses; (7) provide drying-out or nursing services, hospitalization, drugs or any medical or psychiatric treatment; (8) offer spiritual or religious services; (9) engage in education or propaganda about alcohol; (10) provide housing, food, clothing, jobs, money or other welfare or social services; (11) provide domestic or vocational counseling; (12) accept any money for its services, or any contributions from non-A.A. sources.

NOTE: An individual A.A. member may do some of these things on a private, personal basis, but this is not part of his A.A. membership. Many professionals in the field of alcoholism are also A.A. members. Their professional work, however, is not a part of their A.A. membership. A.A. does not profess competence to perform professional service such as those listed above.

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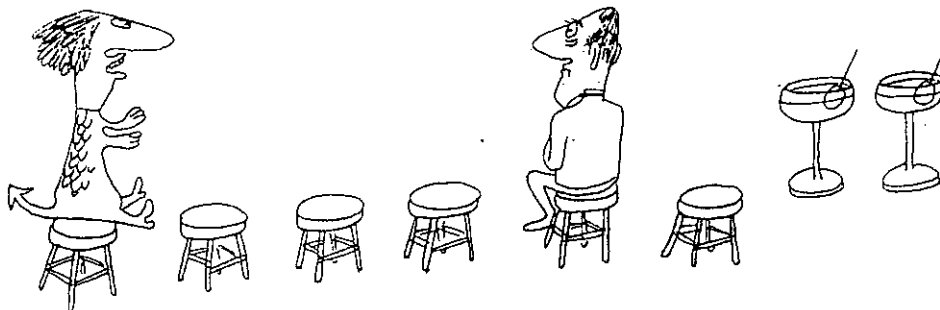
NEW DCM

District 1-D has a new District Committee Member, Wilson "Pete" P. of Universal City. 1-D consists of the following groups: Alamo, Downtown, Eisenhower, Fort Sam Houston, Northeast, Schertz, Stepping Stones and Universal City.

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The loaded bullfighter, surrounded by his friends, weaved up to the front door of his casa grande. He reached for the door, turned to his buddies and said, "This, senores, is the moment of truth."

One person described alcoholism as "living it up on Saturday night and throwing it up on Sunday morning."



From now on I shall respond unemotionally to life. When any incident threatens to disturb my emotional balance, I shall immediately and automatically be projected into a state of humorous self recall and I shall observe my subconscious until the emotion dies away. Oh, yeah? Well, lots of luck and here's your 90 chip.

help.

The Editor of the NIGHTCAP and all Editors of AA Newsletters have received a letter from Jim Shannon, Director, GRAPEVINE Corporate Board requesting our help.

The GRAPEVINE is undergoing a one-year plan to restore the GRAPEVINE operation by looking into every facet of the operation. A circulation increase is important, since the GRAPEVINE operates solely on income from subscriptions and the sale of its special items.

Circulation has suffered this past year for various reasons, we think. A major cause may be the difficulty in delivery the GRAPEVINE experienced because of a change in computer and mailing services. We're happy to say that those problems have been resolved and the GRAPEVINE probably has the most accurate listing it has had in years.

The letter goes on to say... "While we obviously like to circulation grow, that is not our primary purpose. The most important aspect is that the GRAPEVINE helps AA members stay sober."

Jim suggested that July be established as a month to "sponsor a Newcomer with the GRAPEVINE." If individuals or groups were to take this idea on as a goal for the month of July, none of us could fathom the far-reaching results. What do you think? Can you and will you help us with this project?

We need insurance and the GRAPEVINE will provide it at the cost of 2,19178082 cents per day. Fill out the form below and sign up for 365 days...

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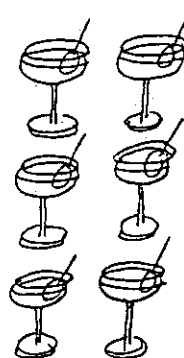
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NIGHTCAP 5/24/82

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From the book "BOTTLE FATIGUE by
Virgil Franklin Partch