



The Nightcap

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NO. 5

San Antonio area is new home of AA's longest-sober member

AA Old-Timer Oscar W. has moved to the San Antonio area and has brought with him a treasure trove of AA lore and history.

As far as can be determined, he has more sobriety than any other living member of our fellowship. His sobriety date is March 6, 1940. Forty-four years!

Along with his wife Vera, Oscar arrived here in April after living in Denver for 35 years.

"I actually joined in 1939 but when the Big Book was published in the fall of '39, I was so happy I went out and got drunk," he said with a grin.

"I came back six months later and have been sober since then."

Before the Big Book was published, the fellowship was known as "The Alcoholic Brigade of the Oxford Group." This group, according to Oscar, discriminated against Catholics and certain minorities, so Clarence followed the advice of Dr. Bob and started a separate group in Cleveland called the Borton Group of Alcoholics Anonymous, which was open to anybody who needed help.

"Actually, that was the first AA group formed with the new name Alcoholics Anonymous," claimed Oscar. "And Clarence did it. I know, because I was there," he maintained. (Editor's note: Clarence S. died in March.)

Oscar said he couldn't get sober in the Oxford Group because it was too religious. The main emphasis was on prayer and more prayer.

"You prayed to the Father, Son and Holy Ghost. You prayed for forgiveness. You prayed for guidance. And then you prayed to see if the guidance was really from God. If you slipped, you had to

come back to the Oxford Group and publicly confess your sins and surrender on your knees. Our knees got pretty damn sore," Oscar chuckled.

"Dr. Bob was a very religious person," explained Oscar. "He often carried the Bible in one hand and the Big Book in the other when he came to a meeting. If anyone asked him a question, Dr. Bob would consult both books and then would have you get down on your knees and pray to God for guidance."

Oscar feels the Big Book is a fine guidebook for alcoholics but he was against including various prayers. But a compromise had to be reached so the book could be published. He doesn't like the Serenity Prayer, either.

"From the very beginning, there was a lot of disagreement between the New York AAs and Ohio folks," he said. "People were trying to take credit for this and that; the feeling was that New York sort of thought they were better than we were."

Oscar pointed out that it was 35 years after he joined AA before he was finally taped and interviewed for the AA archives by the General Service Office in New York.

Oscar thinks AA is too organized. "You can't organize AA," he maintains. "To begin with," he said, "AA was a fellowship of people with a common problem, loosely associated together."

Oscar agrees that the GSO in New York is needed and that Central or Intergroup offices serve a good purpose. But he feels that GSRs, DCMs, and area

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 2)

AA OLD-TIMER OSCAR W.
(CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE)

representatives and delegates are not essential.

"Dr. Bob was against this structuring of AA. He wanted to keep it simple," said Oscar. "I agree with him."

Oscar gives a lot of credit to Bill W. for promoting AA in the early years when the fellowship was struggling to survive.

Now 74 years old, Oscar is quoted extensively in the book Dr. Bob and the Good Old-Timers.

Oscar is a fascinating person to talk to. If you would like to visit him and his wife, they live at 5439 Starfire in Kirby on San Antonio's East Side.

Oscar, who no longer drives a car and must use either a cane or a wheelchair to get around, would appreciate rides to AA meetings.

May Celebrities

Jen Rose W.	- - - - -	24 years
Harry N.	- - - - -	18 years
John D.	- - - - -	16 years
Jose L.	- - - - -	8 years
Joyce H.	- - - - -	6 years
Larry Y.	- - - - -	5 years
Bob K.	- - - - -	4 years
Louis S.	- - - - -	3 years
Hugh D.	- - - - -	2 years
Sheila T.	- - - - -	2 years
Aron W.	- - - - -	1 year
Chris S.	- - - - -	1 year
Clinton W.	- - - - -	1 year

Please let us know about your group's June birthdays by May 22. Group secretaries have been asked to call sobriety birthdays in to Central Office. Birthday celebrants or their friends can also call in -- the phone number is 733-7562.

Discussion Meeting Topics

The following were meeting topics at the 1980 International AA Convention in New Orleans:

<p>MY FEELINGS ABOUT A.A.</p> <p>PRINCIPLES BEFORE PERSONALITIES</p> <p>HOW I FOUND A.A.</p> <p>MY CASE IS DIFFERENT</p> <p>MY HOME GROUP IS THE BEST</p> <p>WE ARE NOT SAINTS</p> <p>SOME DAYS YOU JUST HANG ON</p> <p>ATTRACTION RATHER THAN PROMOTION</p> <p>RESENTMENTS! RESENTMENTS! RESENTMENTS!</p> <p>MY FIRST YEAR OF SOBRIETY</p> <p>GROWTH THROUGH PAIN!</p> <p>WE LET GO ABSOLUTELY!</p> <p>I GOT EMOTIONALLY INVOLVED TOO SOON</p> <p>I AM RESPONSIBLE</p>	<p>I USED TO HATE MYSELF</p> <p>FULFILLMENT OF THE TWELVE PROMISES</p> <p>SELF-SEEKING WILL SLIP AWAY</p> <p>YOU GOTTA BE WILLING</p> <p>HOW DO I KNOW WHEN I HAVE HUMILITY?</p> <p>HOW DO I FIND MY NICHE IN A.A.?</p> <p>FEAR: A STEPPING STONE TO FAITH</p> <p>WILL I EVER REALLY LOVE?</p> <p>STAYING IN THE NOW</p> <p>ACTION IS THE MAGIC WORD</p> <p>IF ONLY THEY WOULD SHAPE UP!</p> <p>GOD, PLEASE HELP ME TO ACCEPT</p>	<p>FELLOWSHIP THROUGH LOVE AND SERVICE</p> <p>WILL I GO TO ANY LENGTH?</p> <p>ACCEPTING THE GOOD WITH THE SEEMINGLY BAD</p> <p>MATERIALLY WEALTHY OR SPIRITUALLY RICH?</p> <p>ME AND MY INSOMNIA</p> <p>O GOD, I HAD TROUBLE WITH GOD!</p> <p>WE WILL NOT REGRET THE PAST</p> <p>CARRY THE MESSAGE, NOT THE ALCOHOLIC</p> <p>GOD, PLEASE HELP ME TO ACCEPT</p> <p>MADE A DECISION</p> <p>HOW I FOUND A.A.</p> <p>HOW LONG DO I HAVE TO GO TO THESE DAMN MEETINGS?</p>
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A SOBERING THOUGHT: ALCOHOL IS INVOLVED IN 45% OF U.S. SUICIDES, 50% OF HIGHWAY DEATHS, 55% OF MURDERS AND FELONIES -- AND HALF OF ALL PATIENTS ADMITTED TO CITY, COUNTY AND LARGE METROPOLITAN HOSPITALS SUFFER FROM ALCOHOLISM AND DISEASES RELATED TO IT.

Upcoming Events

May 12, Saturday, 6:30 p.m.: Mayfest at Winners Club (see enclosed flyer).

June 11, Monday, 7-9 p.m.: Sixth Annual Homecoming sponsored by SASH AA Group at San Antonio State Hospital. Fellowship 7, meeting 7:30 (speaker Richard S. of S.A.) and reception 8-9 p.m.

* * * * *

LOCAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

New meeting at 11 a.m. Monday through Saturday at the Winners Club: "The Morning After" Group.

Winners Club Women's Meeting changed from Sunday to Monday nights at 8:15. So now there's a women's and a men's meeting there Monday nights at 8:15. (All you double winners take note!)

New local meeting directory will be published in the near future. Calling all groups: phone in or write in any changes for the directory NOW. The present supply of directories on hand at central office will be sold at the bargain rate of 10¢ each (HALF PRICE!)

The 24-Hour Group would appreciate the donation of living-room type furniture. Tax-deductible, and they'll pick it up. Call 732-0282 in p.m., ask for Jack B.

Bob W. is looking for responsible people to serve on the public information committee. Please call central office.

Part-time job open at Central Service Office. Good sobriety, office experience, and a willingness to share experience, strength and hope with new and old in AA alike are prerequisites. Call Central Office between 9-4 M-F.

A shipment of AA tapes will arrive soon at Central Office: Clancy I., Father Martin, etc. Five dollars a tape.

In Memoriam

Jean N. died Saturday, April 7, 1984 after a long illness.

Imogene U. died Wednesday, April 11, 1984 after a long illness.

Deepest condolences to Speedy and to Frost. The AA fellowship shares your loss.

* * * * *

Our sympathy is with Pat O'B. upon the tragic loss of her son.

Three of San Antonio AA's devoted members lost their fathers during the month of April: Bill B., Vern M., and Bob T.

Our Ailing Friends

Paul R. remains in serious condition at Veterans Administration Hospital.

Sunny M. is at home and recuperating beautifully after her long ordeal.

Larry Y. has made a miraculous comeback after heart attacks which struck him at the end of March.

WE'LL MISS YOU, GENE AND MERLE!

San Antonio AA has loaned the Rio Grande Valley 58 years of sobriety in former San Antonians Gene (30 years) and Merle (28 years) D. The couple moved on April 25 to:

311 Forest Hill Drive
Weslaco, TX 78596

Before leaving, they donated to central office an original cartoon of the Grapevine's Victor E. by Grapevine cartoonist Jack Morley. The cartoon will soon be framed and will hang in central office. It had been a gift to Gene from the cartoonist.

SECOND SATURDAY EATIN' MEETING becomes THIRD SATURDAY EATIN' MEETING!

May 19, 6 p.m., Wyatt's Cafeteria, 410 and Babcock. Elves S., chairman. Meeting will end at 7:45 -- plenty of time to get to your regular Saturday meeting!

People, Places, and Things . . .

By Becci D.

Farewell & best wishes to ex-CSO employee, Monika O., and many thanks for your hard work and devotion.....

Fred D., of Boston, has purchased a new house recently. He is hosting an open house every Sunday afternoon in May, and invites everyone to stop by.....Says Fred, "It can't get much better than this.".....

Bobbie G. of the Turning Point Group went to the San Diego AA convention over the Easter holidays.....

Bob T., Marymont GSR who gave such a good talk at Club 12 in early April, says he is "eloping." He should be back in town soon with his new bride, Jan, from the San Francisco area, who is also in the program.....proving once again that the blessings from this program never end...

And, congratulations to Kevin H. and his new bride, Regina. Kevin and Regina were married on April 14 at San Fernando Cathedral....Kevin is the secretary for the Freedom Group.....

Another wedding to report is the mother of Roland R. and Vangie H. We know that both Roland and Vangie are very grateful to have a new member in their family.... Mrs. Ramirez was wed Saturday, April 28...

Harold J. made the rounds of AA meetings last week....he attended meetings in New Braunfels, Fredericksburg, Kerrville, San Angelo, and Abilene.... It's wonderful to have so many friends we haven't met yet.....

Pete C., of Villa Rosa Group, has retired from 36 years with the Post Office.....Tom H. from Philadelphia has the first car of his life (no subways).

Len and Jan N., of the Winners Club, are really looking forward to their vacation in May...Len says they are going to Kentucky.....

Al M., of the Universal City Group, just returned from PARIS, with about 4,000 pictures of that beautiful city....

Chester D., of the Downtown Group, is getting ready to make his pilgrimage home to Arkansas....he has family buried there and is quite a historian in his own right.....

A special hello to Dana of Alpha House, and a message from all of us who have been praying for her....we're glad you are back and we hope you hang in there and let this program help you in the new and exciting journey you are taking.....we love you....

Fred D., of the Downtown Group, would like to extend a special thanks to everyone who helped with the 39th AA Anniversary in San Antonio....there were many who really worked hard to make the celebration a success and we are all very grateful.....

James P., who spends many hours doing volunteer work at the VA, was awarded a certificate for his time and effort by the VA....James knows the secret of getting out of self, and it shows....Congratulations!!!

(PLEASE CALL ITEMS FOR THIS COLUMN IN TO CENTRAL OFFICE/733-7562 OR BECCI/692-1712.)

A. A.'s Beginning's Here: Collected Correspondence

(The following account has been gleaned from letters exchanged by San Antonio AA members and supporters and the New York office. This is Part 2 of a series.)

Jack Disosway, who spearheaded the pre-World War II emergence of AA in San Antonio, moved from the city in July of 1941. In October, the New York office wrote to ask AA supporter Rev. Everett Jones "what was going on along AA lines in San Antonio." Letters New York had written to Henry K., who was supposed to take over after Jack D. left, had been returned unopened.

"Our fundamental need is that of lay leadership," an associate of Rev. Jones wrote in reply. He was St. Mark's Episcopal Church curate Joseph L. Brown, who along with Jones had been working with the young AA group.

Brown reported that there were "approximately 12 interested members, but none of which are able to stay on the wagon long enough to provide leadership."

New York wrote back to acknowledge that Jack D. had been the group's mainstay but also to declare confidently that "wherever AA has had any start at all, it rarely ever dissolves entirely."

No more letters are recorded until the summer of 1942, when Dr. Bob made a visit to San Antonio to see his son Smitty receive his wings in the Air Corps. Dr. Bob and Ann had dinner with the Rev. and Mrs. Jones and a Dr. and Mrs. Harvey Ericson while here, and met with the fledgling AA group.

After Dr. Bob's visit, Harvey, a dentist who was a member of the group, wrote New York that he had passed his physicals prior to being called into the service -- "not bad for an alcoholic," he wrote.

Many sober AAs were entering the service at this time. By December of 1942, the membership was at a low point. Rev. Jones wrote New York, "Our AA group has been pretty well scattered by the war but I have a very fine person who is interested at present, and I hope I can rebuild a group around him."

By 1943 Jones, by then Bishop of West

Texas, was concerned. The AA group, he wrote, "did not have enough dependable members to hold a regular meeting" but was "getting many inquiries directly and through the New York office as a result of the series in the San Antonio Light."

Jones arranged an August 15 meeting to which members of the Houston AA group were invited. The Houston AAs did not show up, but three members came from Dallas, headed by Esther Elizardi. Locally, "two from our old group and about six interested prospects" attended. Hollis Neal was made secretary of the group. From that day forth, the group was to get continually larger and better able to serve other suffering alcoholics.

A sad note from this period was the death of Jack Disosway, who had brought AA to San Antonio in March of 1941. Jack, serving in the American Red Cross in England during the war, died from pneumonia followed by liver trouble. New York reported that Bill W. considered it a shocking loss. Bill recalled visiting with Jack in February of 1942 before Jack left for England.

St. Mark's curate Joseph Brown was also in England at this time as a chaplain with the troops there.

There is almost a two-year gap between correspondence about the Aug. 15, 1943 meeting and the next letters, which were dated April 1945. But AA is known to have grown continuously during that period. In those two years, San Antonio AAs established groups, formed a Central Service Office, and opened a club. San Antonians also promoted the availability of AA to other areas of Texas. The foundation of San Antonio AA had formed.

(CONTINUED NEXT MONTH)

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GSR Meeting Minutes

CLUB 12 - APRIL 15

Fred Daley opened the meeting with the Serenity Prayer. He explained the literature on the front table, and introduced the new GSR's who are as follows:

Margaret - Northeast Group

Arn G. - Bluemel Oaks Group

Visitors are:

James - Southwest Loop Group

Joe T. - Freedom Group (filling in for Kevin H.)

Fred read the CSO Guidelines and Dave read the 12 Traditions.

Becci D. read the minutes of the last meeting, March 18 and the following corrections were noted:

Steve was reported to be the new GSR for the Villa Rosa Group. He is the alternate and was filling in for Pete, who is still GSR.

Ann is the new DCM for District 1D.

ADMINISTRATIVE BOARD REPORTS - A1 D.

FINANCIAL REPORT - Donna asked why the financial statement still reflects answering service charges and A1 explained that answering service was still functional in order to make taking after hours calls easier for individuals; the answering service was available in case work schedules conflict with taking the duty.

PENAL REPORT - Don S. reported some new applications for persons to take meetings to penal institutions. Two visitations were granted this month. He asked GSRs to ask groups to volunteer to take the message to inmates and asked GSRs themselves to get approved.

EDITORIAL REPORT - Janis reported that Donna is finalizing her history of AA series. She asked that GSRs call CSO and report interest items of a personal nature for the Nightcap.

HOSPITAL REPORT - Sylvia was approved by the Administrative Board to chair this committee. Groups to take meetings to the hospitals for the month of May are:

Detox	Medical Professions
SASH	Freedom Group
SALLY	Lytle Group
Haven	Southwest Loop Group
ARC	Alamo Heights Group
Casa del Sol	Turning Point Group

PUBLIC INFORMATION REPORT - Bob W. has been busy going to various middle and high schools in the area. He has also talked to the television stations about spots. He asked that he be granted permission to invite city council members, Mayor Cisneros, the Chief of Police, etc. to the 39 Anniversary Party. Fred D. granted permission.

(MINUTES CONTINUED ON REVERSE PAGE)

GSR Meeting Minutes (CONTINUED)

MAILING COMMITTEE - Al D. asked GSRs to let CSO know if members who subscribe to the Nightcap have had change of address. Return mail is costly.

OLD BUSINESS

THE 39TH ANNIVERSARY OF A.A. IN SAN ANTONIO - Fred D. - Chairman:

Dana got some churches to donate use of their school buses and the committee will only have to pay for gasoline. The buses will take people to and from the anniversary party from the ARC, SASH, Haven, and possibly the Goliad if a head count of interested persons is submitted.

Fred asked GSRs to give him a head count of interested persons and ticket sales in order to give the caterers some sort of figure.

The Oblate Group donated 10 tickets to persons in hospitals and SASH will have a cash donation for the committee.

MAY AFTER-HOUR PHONE DUTY - Groups to take phone duty for the month of May are as follows:

Alpha House	May 14-May 21
Marymont Group	May 21-May 28
open	May 28-June 4
Alamo Heights	June 4-June 11

NEW BUSINESS

Al D. reported poor representation by GSRs at the Pre-General Service Workshop at the Mariott Inn North on March 31 and April 1st. He reported that the delegate was advised as to how the area felt on issues to be discussed in New York.

Janis asked the group who they felt about stocking A.A. tapes at CSO. No decision was reached and the issue was put off until next month.

Fred D. advised GSRs to make sure they are registered with CSO in order to receive their issue of the Nightcap and BOX 459, etc., so they can inform their groups of service work and happenings in A.A.

DCM REPORT

- 1A - James P. has contacted GSRs who don't attend meeting and informed them of an area meeting once a month. Fred D. suggested asking alternate to attend CSOC meeting once a month, if GSR is not doing his/her duty.
- 1B - Gloria absent - no report
- 1C - Jack absent - no report
- 1D - Ann - No report but gave phone number to GSRs in her area.
- 1E - Jim B. - reported that Jim D. is alternate - GSRs are making a list of people who want to work at Wilford Hall in volunteer work.

The next meeting of the CSOC will be on May 20, 1984, at Club 12 at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Becci D.
CSOC Secretary

CENTRAL SERVICE OFFICE -- SAN ANTONIO, TX
CONTRIBUTIONS RECEIVED
MAR 27 - APR 25, 1984

GROUP	APR	YTD	GROUP	APR	YTD
ABUNDANCE	-0-	-0-	*OBLATE	\$ 40.00	\$ 40.00
ALAMO	45.00	45.00	PARK NORTH	-0-	50.00
*ALAMO HEIGHTS	42.00	168.00	RELIANCE	-0-	-0-
*ALPHA HOUSE	50.00	100.00	SAHARA	-0-	-0-
AUDUBON	-0-	-0-	SANTA FE	-0-	-0-
BIG BOOK STUDY	6.25	6.25	*SASH	-0-	100.00
*BLUEMEL OAKS	-0-	10.00	SCHERTZ	-0-	84.00
BOERNE, WED	-0-	131.96	SERENITY	15.00	45.00
BOERNE, SUN	-0-	55.00	*SOUTHWEST LOOP	30.00	80.00
BROADWAY	-0-	69.00	*STEPPING STONES	-0-	180.00
*CALLAGHAN	80.00	200.50	SUMMIT	19.80	105.03
COKER	-0-	-0-	SUN NITE WOMEN'S	-0-	-0-
COLONIES NORTH	150.00	510.00	SUN SPEAKERS	-0-	-0-
*DOWNTOWN	20.00	40.00	SUNSET	-0-	5.00
EISENHAUER	-0-	-0-	TEJAS	-0-	180.00
FT SAM HOUSTON	100.00	250.00	*TURNING POINT	11.80	94.43
*FREEDOM	25.00	75.00	TWENTY-FOUR HOUR	-0-	30.00
FRONTIER	-0-	-0-	*UNIVERSAL CITY	30.00	126.00
*GOLIAD	25.00	125.00	*UNIVERSAL CITY, SUN	-0-	52.00
*GROUP 12	200.00	1000.00	V. A. HOSPITAL	-0-	-0-
GRUPO UNIDAD	-0-	20.00	*VALLEY-HI	25.00	100.00
*HAVEN	-0-	-0-	*VILLA ROSA	50.00	100.00
*HIGHLAND	20.00	80.00	WEEKEND WINNERS	-0-	-0-
KINGSBORO	5.00	5.00	WESLEY	-0-	7.00
LAMBDA	30.00	120.00	WEST ASHBY	-0-	-0-
LAUREL HEIGHTS	40.00	100.00	*WILFORD HALL	40.00	80.00
*LYTLE	-0-	-0-	WINDCREST	-0-	-0-
*MARYMONT	30.00	130.00	WINNERS	-0-	100.00
*MEDICAL PROFFESIONS	75.00	175.00	YOUNG PEOPLE'S	-0-	-0-
*MON NITE MEN'S	-0-	-0-	*2ND SAT CAFETERIA	-0-	45.00
MORNING AFTER	-0-	-0-	4TH STREET	-0-	-0-
NEW LIFE	-0-	-0-			
NORTH SAN PEDRO	75.00	150.00	AREA		
*NORTHEAST	-0-	85.00	FLORESVILLE	-0-	25.00
NORTHWEST	-0-	-0-	KERRVILLE (DIST 12)	170.41	171.41
*NORTHWOOD	-0-	-0-			

SUMMARY OF CONTRIBUTIONS (APR '84)

DISTRICT 1	\$1279.85
AREA	170.41
BUCK-A-MONTH	333.00
INDIVIDUAL	3.05
+MEMORIAL	160.00
	<u>\$1946.31</u>
+NORTHWOOD GROUP FOR NITA B. & THOMAS F. AMELIA P. FOR NITA B. & IMOGENE U. GENE & MERLE D. FOR IMOGENE U.	

DISTRICT 1 ACTIVE GROUPS 65

NEW GROUPS REPORTED 0

DISCONTINUED GROUPS 1
OPEN DOOR

*GROUPS REPRESENTED AT CSOC (GSR)
MEETING ON APR 15, 1984.

Push to ex-girl friend: "When the phone don't ring, you'll know it's me."

"I'd rather have a bottle in front of me than a frontal lobotomy."

103 RENNER DRIVE
SAN ANTONIO, TX 78201

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U. S. POSTAGE
PAID
Permit No. 2807
San Antonio, Texas

PLEASE ENTER MY SUBSCRIPTION TO THE "NIGHTCAP"

RATE: BUCK-A-MONTH FOR _____ MONTHS DATE _____

NAME _____

MAIL TO:

STREET _____

CENTRAL SERVICE OFFICE
103 RENNER
SAN ANTONIO, TX 78201

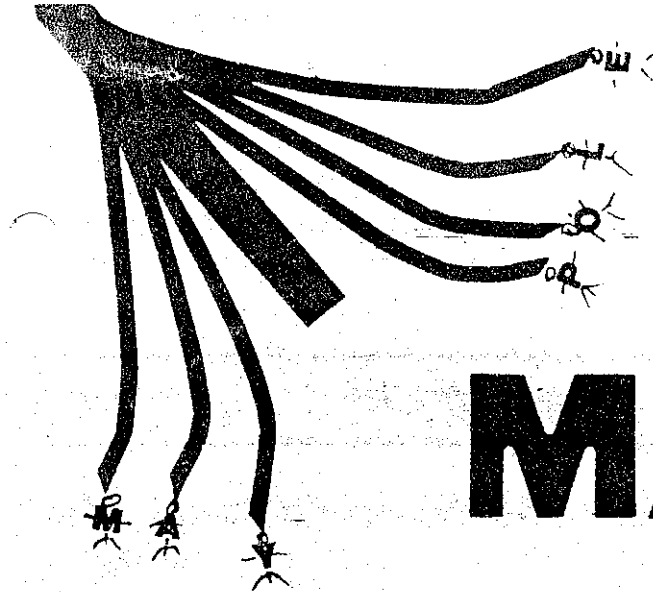
CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: CENTRAL SERVICE OFFICE

OFFICE USE ONLY

AMOUNT RECEIVED \$ _____ DATE RECEIVED _____ CASH CHECK # _____

CARD INITIATED OR UPDATED BY _____ MAILING LABEL BY _____



Don't miss the
FUN!

MAYFEST

SATURDAY, MAY 12, 6:30 pm

At The Winners Club!

INTERNATIONAL CUISINE

BLACKJACK * ROULETTE * DICE * LET'S GO TO THE RACES

TROUBADOUR * FORTUNE TELLER

USE YOUR WINNINGS TO BID ON VALUABLE PRIZES!

INTERNATIONAL ATTIRE IF POSSIBLE

Donation - \$10.00

Sponsored by the Alcoholics Groups
of the Winners Club

