

# THE NIGHTCAP

## A.A. IN SOUTHWEST TEXAS

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### LOVE

In our early days in AA we are often confronted with many four letter words. Some of these are disturbing to us and sometimes even threaten our sobriety. Love, however, is not one of them and I would like to quote the following "Excellence of the Gift of Love".

"Now I will show you the way which surpasses all the others. If I speak with human tongues and angelic as well, but do not have love, I am a noisy gong, a clanging cymbal. If I have the gift of prophecy and, with full knowledge, comprehend all mysteries, if I have faith great enough to move mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. If I give everything I have to feed the poor and hand over my body to be burned, but have not love, I gain nothing."

"Love is patient; love is kind. Love is not jealous, it does not put on airs, it is not snobbish. Love is never rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not prone to anger; neither does it brood over injuries. Love does not rejoice in what is wrong but rejoices with the truth. There is no limit to love's forbearance, to its trust, its hope, its power to endure.

"Love never fails. Prophecies will cease, tongues will be silent, knowledge will pass away. Our knowledge is imperfect and our prophesying is imperfect. When I was a child I used to talk like a child, think like a child, reason like a child. When I became a man I put childish ways aside. Now we see indistinctly, as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. My knowledge is imperfect now; then I shall know even as I am known. There are in the end three things that last: FAITH, HOPE, AND LOVE, AND THE GREATEST OF THESE IS LOVE."

Some of us are concerned at times how our Higher Power, whom most of us call GOD, can permit many inhuman acts and allow extremely cruel behavior in our fellow man. Doubts begin to creep into our thinking. But we must remember that God gave us complete control over our destinies. He permitted us to determine for ourselves our own nature in accordance with our own free will. Neither heavenly nor earthly in nature, we were free to fashion ourselves in whatever form we preferred. We had the power to choose to degenerate into the lowest form of life, but we also have the power, out of our own soul's judgment, to be reborn into the higher forms, which are devine. We have the power to choose.

Think of the choices you have made in your life and recall, now, those bitter moments when you would fall to your knees if only you had the opportunity to choose again. The past is past. Let us now use this gift wisely. (Ed)

Choose to love . . . rather than hate.  
Choose to laugh . . . rather than cry.  
Choose to create . . . rather than destroy.  
Choose to persevere . . . rather than quit.  
Choose to praise . . . rather than gossip.  
Choose to heal . . . rather than wound.  
Choose to give . . . rather than steal.  
Choose to act . . . rather than procrastinate.  
Choose to grow . . . rather than rot.  
Choose to pray . . . rather than curse.  
Choose to live . . . rather than die.

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Have you wondered about the Circle and Triangle which you see transcribed on much of the AA literature? It had its beginning in 1955. The circle stands for the whole world of A.A.; and the triangle stands for A.A.'s Three Legacies: Recovery, Unity, and Service. It is perhaps no accident that priests and seers of antiquity regarded this symbol as a means of warding off spirits of evil.

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The definition of an atheist: "A person with no invisible means of support".

The following is a child's prayer that was overheard: "God please take care of Yourself, because if anything happens to you we're all in big trouble."

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POT LOSING OUT TO GUESS - WHAT? Fewer high school seniors approve of smoking marijuana and tobacco than their predecessors in the 1970's, but support for heavy drinking continues, according to a nation wide survey by the University of Michigan.

The study credited extensive publicity about marijuana's health hazards for limiting daily smoking to 10.3% of high school seniors, down from 11% in 1978.

The report said that "weekend binge drinking" was increasingly acceptable among seniors.

THIS IS A.A.?

Alcoholics Anonymous is a fellowship designed and administered by a BUNCH OF EX-DRUNKS whose only qualification for membership is that THEY CAN'T HOLD THEIR LIQUOR and do not want to learn how. It has no rules, dues or fees, nor anything else that any sensible organization seems to require.

At meetings, the speaker starts on one subject and winds up talking about something entirely different and concludes by saying that he doesn't know anything about the program EXCEPT THAT IT WORKS: The Groups are always "broke" yet always seem to have money to carry on. They are always losing members, but seem to grow. They claim A.A. is a selfish program, but always seem to be doing something for others.

Every group passes laws, rules, edicts and pronouncements which everyone blitely ignores. Members who disagree with anything are entitled to walk out in a huff, quitting FOREVER, only to return as though nothing had happened and to be greeted accordingly. Nothing is ever planned 24 hours ahead, yet great projects are born and survive magnificently. Nothing in A.A. is according to Hoyle. HOW CAN IT SURVIVE?

Perhaps it's because we have learned to LIVE AND LAUGH AT OURSELVES. God made man. He made laughter, too. Perhaps He is pleased with our disorganized efforts and makes things right for us no matter who pushes the wrong button. Maybe He is pleased, not with our perfection, but with our sincerity. Maybe he is pleased with our TRYING TO BE NOBODY BUT OURSELVES. We don't know how it works BUT IT DOES and members keep receiving their dividend checks from their A.A. investments. (Roy G)

HELPING THE BATTERED -- and BATTERERS.

According to counselors to the Batters Program at the House of Ruth in Baltimore, 70% of the men who attend the House of Ruth group-counseling program for batterers have severe alcohol problems. In addition 19% of the battered women involved in couples therapy at the emergency shelter are alcohol abusers.

A shelter worker from the Midwest reported an 87% correlation between alcoholism and wife-battering; a Californis shelter director said 56% of the women she treats report that their husbands abuse alcohol! and a shelter director from Phoenix said over 70% of the battering spouses who come to her attention suffer from alcohol problems.

While drinking should not be considered an excuse for violence "We must recognize that as long as the drinking continues, nothing else will improve in the relationship," advises one of the counselors. She advised treating husbands alcohol problems either within a shelter-operated group for batterers or through referral to an alcoholism agency and Alcoholics Anonymous.

She urged shelter workers to learn more about alcoholism so that they can recognize problems even when the wife may not acknowledge them. (GV)

A definition of an "old timer" - One who can remember putting a quarter in the group's collection basket and feeling like a philanthropist. . . .

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### GSR

Nightcap would like to remind the General Service Representatives that they have a great responsibility to their group. Remember that you are the groups only contact with the Central Service Office and representatives from other groups. One hour per month is all that is required of you. The GSR's and the Central Service Office committee Meet on the second Sunday of each month at Club 12, 102 Thames, at 7:00 PM. The meetings last one hour and they are timely and rewarding. As all of you are aware A.A. has little organization or government. Our leaders are "trusted servants" in keeping with the second tradition, but there are matters which affect other groups or A.A. as a whole and for this we need this one meeting a month. In so doing we can carry out our purpose which is to carry the message to the alcoholic who still suffers.

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### 24th Anniversary

The Alamo Heights Group will hold their 24th anniversary on Monday Oct. 13, 1980. Ray Y. from Kerrville, with 40 years sobriety will be the guest speaker. Refreshments and fellowship will follow the meeting. This will take place in the parish hall at St. Lukes Church. You all come. Horace A will be the chairman and Gene D will give a history of the group.

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### Eisenhauer Step Group.

The Eisenhauer Step Group, located in the St. Stephens Presbyterian Church, 4115 Eisenhauer Rd will be one year old on Oct. 18, 1980. On their regular meeting on Thursday Oct. 23rd, they will celebrate their first anniversary. The meeting will be held at 8:15 PM in the church fellowship hall. This will be an open speaker's meeting. Refreshments and food will be served after the meeting. Please plan to join the celebration. Everyone is invited.

### GROUP UNIDAD

On Oct. 3rd, Group Unidad will add a new meeting. This meeting will be devoted to studying the traditions, steps, Big Book etc. The meeting will be from 8:00 PM to 9:30 PM every Friday. Meeting will be conducted in Spanish, and is a closed meeting.

### Schertz Group

A new group has started in Schertz. It will meet at 401 Oak St in Schertz, Tex. Tuesday, 8:15 PM will be a closed discussion and Friday at 8:15 PM there will be an open speakers meeting.

### DEL RIO

The Del Rio Border Conderence will convene on December 5,6 and 7th. For further details please contact the Chairman, P.O. Box 1442, Del Rio, Texas 78840.

Literature News:

"A Newcomer Asks" our newest pamphlet in AA has been announced from General Service Office. Another new pamphlet this year is "It Sure Beats Sitting in a Cell". This is available in the Central office now.

Top O Texas Roundup

On Oct. 3,4,5,1980 the 33rd Annual Roundup "Top O Texas" will be held in Amarillo, Texas. Registrations are limited so please make room reservations at Hilton Inn, P.O. Box 9294, Amarillo, Texas prior to Sept 15th.

The following groups will be responsible for the VILLA ROSA meetings:

<u>OCTOBER</u>		<u>NOVEMBER</u>	
7	Grupo Unidad	4	Marymont
14	Marymont	11	Downtown
21	Downtown	18	Santa Fe
28	Young People	25	Alamo Heights

The following groups will be responsible for the Sally meetings:

<u>OCTOBER</u>		<u>NOVEMBER</u>	
1	Windcrest	5	Young Peoples
8	Windcrest	12	Young Peoples
15	Laurel Heights	19	Downtown
22	North San Pedro	26	Open Door
29	North San Pedro		

Nightcap will publish the meeting two months in advance from this date forward. Some groups have complained (and rightly so) that they did not have sufficient notice to carry the meetings and messages to other groups.

Group 12 will be responsible for the Frontier meetings at the ARC during the month of October.

CSO STATISTICS FROM AUGUST 15 to September 15th.

AA	300
Alanon	60
Information	202
Students	1
Public Information	2

SOUTHWEST TEXAS AREA, 30TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Conference will be held on Oct 9 thru 12, 1980 at the Inn of the Hills, Kerrville. There will be ten speakers, all from Texas. Spanish meeting Saturday PM - Nite Owl meeting on Thursday and Friday nights. AREA ASSEMBLY SATURDAY MORNING. Please make room reservations direct to: Inn of the Hills, 1006 Junction Hwy., Kerrville, Tx 78028. Make conference reservations to: Registration Chrm, P.O. Box 2153, Kerrville, Tx 78028.

CENTRAL SERVICE OFFICE SAN ANTONIO  
RECEIVED SEPTEMBER 18, 1980

<u>GROUP</u>	<u>SEPTEMBER</u>	<u>TO DATE</u>	<u>GROUP</u>	<u>SEPTEMBER</u>	<u>TO DATE</u>
Alamo Heights	\$ 30.00	\$ 135.00	Open Door	0	23.00
Audubon	0	0	Park North	0=	375.00
Broadway	20.00	285.00	Randolph Fellowship	0	10.00
Callaghan	25.00	225.00	Reality	0	30.00
Coker Group	0	0	Reliance	0	52.27
Colonies North	0	325.00	Sahara	0	0
Eisenhauer Step	0	15.00	SASH	0	45.00
First Step	0	30.00	Santa Fe	0	0
Fort Sam Houston	25.00	245.00	Schertz Group	-	-
Frontier	0	30.00	Serenity	15.00	135.00
Goliad	20.00	135.00	Southwest Loop	10.34	80.84
Group 12	100.00	1,000.00	Spiritual Life	0	0
Grupo Del Sol	0	10.0	Stepping Stones	25.00	230.00
Grupo Unidad	20.00	40.00	Sunset	15.00	150.00
Highlands	20.00	200.00	Tejas	50.00	365.00
Hope	0	0	The Haven	0	80.00
Kingsboro	0	15.00	Triangle	0	0
Lambda	5.00	45.00	24 Hour	0	0
Laurel Heights	15.00	145.00	Universal City	0	60.00
Mary Mont	0	130.00	VA Hospital	20.00	65.00
Northeast	0	120.00	Valley High	20.00	160.00
North San Pedro	0	180.00	Wesley	6.00	12.00
Northwest	33.00	222.80	Wilford Hall	5.00	15.00
Northwood	0	300.00	Villa Rosa	25.00	250.00
			Windcrest	45.00	135.00
			Young People	0	95.00

24 Groups - - - - - \$574.34  
Buck A Month - - - - - 229.00

AREA

Brazos Valley	0	27.51	720 Group Kerrville	0	45.00
Bridge (N.B.)	0	0	Lytle	0	0
Caldwell Grp.	0	15.00	New Braunfels	0	0
Cameron Group	0	8.00	New Braunfels Home Group	0	0
Canyon Lake	10.00	20.00	Pearsall	0	60.00
Floresville	15.00	60.00	Pleasanton	0	0
Fredericksburg	0	0	Rockdale	0	8.00
Hill Country	0	0	Seguin	0	0
Kerrville	0	0	Sliding Door - Corpus	0	10.00
Kerrville Big Book	0	25.00	Women's Serenity - Kerrville	0	0

MEMORIAL CONTRIBUTION \_ For Larry B. from Van  
INDIVIDUAL CONTRIBUTION - From George M.

BUCK A MONTH CONTRIBUTION FORM

Central Service Office - 109 Lexington Ave. Suite 215 - San Antonio, Texas 78205  
Please enter by contribution to BUCK A MONTH for \_\_\_\_\_ months.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ STREET \_\_\_\_\_  
CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_