

NIGHT CAP

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Central Service Office of Alcoholics
Anonymous in the interest of greater
unity of members in local and South-
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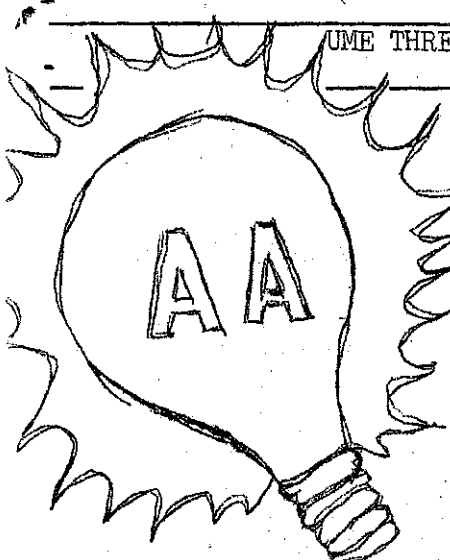
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GOD UNDERSTANDS WHAT WE SOUGHT



In the moving book "The Cross and the Switchblade", one of the more striking scenes is the first time the young minister confronts a group of young people in the midst of a sex - narcotics orgy. Instead of turning away in disgust, the young man of the cloth addressed those who were "copping out" something like this: God understands what you are seeking when you turn to drugs and sex. He realizes that you are looking for some sort of ecstasy, and to Him this is good. But He also knows you are looking in the wrong place. What you want is good, but you'll never get it from sex and drugs, no matter how long or how far you pur-

sue them. God wants you to have the good feeling, but He wants you to get it from Him. And you can. No matter what has happened up to now, He still loves you.

The first time I read this - and it's a paraphrase not an exact quote - it struck me: how true. When I was drinking. I was looking for an exotic feeling. Of course, I rarely got it and now I realize I, too, was looking in the wrong place. But I believe now that God understood what I was seeking and this of itself was good. What was wrong was my attempt to secure goodness from a power that could not give it to me: the bottle. In AA, I have learned to seek that goodness from that Power greater than myself which I choose to call God. And good things come to me in abundance.

Naturally, things aren't good all the time nor do I always have that feeling of ecstasy. I'm still a human being with all my faults and imperfections - though AA is helping me to do something about those, too. But everytime I'm given the opportunity to extend the helping hand of AA to someone in need of it, everytime I'm asked to lead a discussion or speak, everytime someone compliments me on something said, and everytime I give someone a chance to help me I get a feeling of goodness that tops anything I ever got from drinking even in it's best days. Perhaps it could be summed up simply in this way: there's something about that feeling of knowing for the first time in my life that I'm heading in the right direction that beats anything I ever had.

As that young minister so aptly put it: God understands what we sought whether from drugs, alcohol, or whatever. In the AA way of life, He has helped me and thousands of others find it.

(Reprinted from the June, 1971 issue of the "Intergroup Newsletter", Houston, Tex)

P.I.C. REPORT:NEW THIRD EDITION OF BIG BOOK ADDS PRESENT - DAY AA STORIES

The thirteen new stories in the third edition of "Alcoholics Anonymous" enable the basic text of AA experience to show a more up-to-date, accurate sample of today's AA membership than the second (1955) edition.

Over 1,450,000 copies of the first two editions were distributed between 1939 and 1976, making the volume a best seller.

The latest revision, approved by the 1975 General Service Conference, is largely the product of four years' work by the trustees' and Conference literature Committees.

No changes have been made in pp. XXIII - 312 - the first eleven basic chapters, written by the co-founder Bill W., and the "Pioneers of AA" section.

The book now contains forty-two stories, plus those of Bill W. and Dr. Bob (the second edition had thirty eight). The new ones are by teenagers - a boy and girl; two retirees - a movie publicist and a Navy man; a native American Indian from a Canadian reservation; an officer in India's army; a housewife who drank at the laundromat; a "good boy" who succeeded but never matured; a physician hooked on booze and pills; two convicts - a black woman and a guy who was a five-time loser; a waitress - barely; and a successful business executive. They reflect the widely different kinds of alcoholics sober in AA today.

But one engrossing story is not in an edition of "Alcoholics Anonymous". It is the account of how the "Big Book" itself was dreamed up and finally became a reality against incredible odds.

In November 1937, in Akron, Ohio, Bill W. and Dr. Bob first talked of producing a book to tell how a tiny band of nameless drunks was then beginning to stay sober (Bill had three years, Dr. Bob, two and a half). They felt they could reach more drunks with a book than by word of mouth.

The story of how it finally got published is almost like an old silent - movie serial - with the existence of AA itself often hanging by a mere thread of hope.

Finally, in April 1939, it was printed - on credit (also, on thick paper - which is why it was nicknamed the "Big Book").

Sixteen years later, when about 300,000 copies had carried the message, the second edition (also just an updating with 608 pages, 38 stories, 30 of them new) was introduced at the second International AA Convention, in St. Louis in 1955.

The story behind "Alcoholics Anonymous", told in "AA Comes of Age", can enrich our appreciation of our "Big Book" - any edition.

GROUP NEWSNEW GROUPS

The Pleasanton Group has started a closed meeting held each Tuesday evening at 8 p.m., called the 12 and 12. A pot-luck supper will be held on the last Saturday of each month.

For more information about this Group or it's meetings call the secretary: Marty Allen. Her number is 512 - 624 - 2585; or write: P. O. Box 648, Somerseset, Texas 78069.

Marty also informs us that the King's Point Group is disbanded until further notice.

The Open Door - Reopens !

After a brief hiatus the "Open Door" will meet again to aid in serving the Northwest Area of San Antonio.

An Open Step-Meeting will initiate this Groups' Grand Re - Opening on Tuesday, September 4th at 8:15 p.m. All AA's and Alanons are welcome, and an Alanon Group will be formed. Please come - help with your support and suggestions.

The "Open Door" meets at St. Georges' Episcopal Church Parish Hall, 6904 West Avenue, and a baby-sitter will be available.

Why not be in at the beginning - of a new beginning ?

LOVE HELPS US BECOME WHO WE REALLY ARE. LOVE IS A FORM OF DISCOVERY.

CHANGES AND ADDITIONS

The Brees Group: Due to the Sunset Ridge Church of Christ enforcing a long-standing "NO SMOKING" regulation: there will be no smoking allowed at the Brees Group meeting effective immediately. As a result we are contemplating a move to a new location, hopefully in the same local.

If you have any questions concerning the above, please call Paul Costanzo: 826 - 4908.

* * * * *

The Amistad Group: Box 1442; Del Rio, Texas 78840. Andy A. reports that this group now has three meetings. An open meeting is held on Monday evening at 8 p.m. A closed meeting is held on Thursday evening at 8 p.m. And on Sunday morning you can nibble you way through an open - Donut meeting " You may contact Andy at the above address or, when in Del Rio drive right up to 507 Bedell Avenue. You'll always find the "Welcome", and the coffee, warm.

WA RESENTMENT IS A KIND OF HANGING = ON BITE : IF YOU RESENT, YOU ARE STUCK WITH IT. OFTEN YOU HAVE A MOUTH IMPLOSION, A TIGHT RIDGID JAW. YOU CAN NEITHER LET GO - FORGET AND FORGIVE, NOR BITE THROUGH - BECOME AGGRESSIVE AND ATTACK THE REAL OR IMAGINED FRUSTRATION, RESENTMENT, LIKE VINDICTIVENESS, IS A GOOD EXAAMPLE OF AN UNFINISHED SITUATION.

- FREDERICK S. PERLS-

REGULAR MONTHLY EVENTS:

The Central Service Office Board will meet on Tuesday, September 7th at the Central Service Office, 109 Lexington Avenue, Suite 215, at 7 p.m.

C.S.O.C. The Central Service Office Committee will meet at Club 12, 102 Thames Drive at 7 p.m. on September 12th.

The STARR (Intergroup) meeting will also meet on Sunday the 12th at Club 12 following the C.S.O.C. meeting at 8:15 p.m. Take a "Sunday Break" and join the crowd - enjoy meeting new friends from all 'round the area!

The Goliad Group, 1004 Avondale will hold their monthly barbeque September 19th at 6 p.m., followed by an open speaker's meeting at 7:30 p.m. All other Sunday evening meetings are held at their regular time of 8:15 p.m.

Club 12: Party Night will be held Saturday, September 25th. Dinner will be served at 7 p.m. \$2.00 for adults and \$1.25 for children.

The 24 Hour Service Group: ;203 Fredricksburg Road will hold their monthly dinner Sunday the 26th of September at 1 p.m. Adults: \$2.00 and Children \$1.25.

SPECIAL EVENTS:ARC BARBEQUE: SEPTEMBER 6TH

Labor Day without a picnic? Never happen! Join your friends from all over the city for fun, food and fellowship. The Frontier Group will once again sponsor a special Labor Day meeting at the A.R.C., Southton Road.

John M. from Austin will speak at the 2 p.m. meeting which will be followed by that traditional barbeque with all the taste tempting trimmings at 3:30.

afinal wave to the waning summer with a last fling in the sun! Mom and Dad may seek the shade; the kids the pool . . . and, oh yes, surely someone's brought his guitar — ummm . . . I'm hungry already. Meet'cha there!

"THE GREATEST FORCE FOR MAKING PEOPLE BIGGER AND BETTER THAN THEY ARE NOW IS THE BELIEF IN YOUR HEART AND MINE THAT THEY HAVE INFINITE POTENTIAL FOR GROWTH. EVEN WHEN THEY FAIL US, WE ARE TO CONTINUE TO CARRY AND EXPRESS THE MENTAL IMAGE OF WHAT THEY MAY BECOME. TO JAVE SP,EPME BE:OEVE OM UPI? EVEN WHEN YOU FAIL, IS THE MOST BLESSED AND CREATIVE FORCE IN THE UNIVERSE."

-LEWIS L. DUNNINGHAM-

CENTRAL SERVICE OFFICE NEWS:

It was decided at the August meeting of the Central Service Office Board that literature would no longer be "let" on consignment, with the exception of conferences, conventions and other similar special occasions.

AA lighters, pens, pendants and key chains (marvelous AA birthday gifts . . . !) are on sale at the Central Service Office. A good supply of the excellent "Bill W. " biographies are in stock; and the Western Directories have arrived, and are on sale for \$1.00.

Referrals: 5/18/76 - 6/16/76

Alanon	26	AA	111
P.I.C.	4	Students	5
Literature Sold \$439.82			

Referrals: 6/16/76 - 7/16/76

Alanon	33	AA	143
P.I.C.	0	Students	4
Literature Sold: \$379.16			

IN MEMORIAM

John H., July 1976
 Guy H., July 1976

SORROW IS BUT A GUEST OF THE HIGHY,
 JOY COMES IN THE MORNING.

Imogene U. is resigning as Mailing Chairman. She wishes to express her deepest thanks to all those who have served on her co,mittee. (And we wish to express our thanks to Imogene for her many months of service" ed.)

Calista Hamilton will replace Imogene as "Mail Crew" head, and she will need volunteers to help sort, staple and stuff. If you can devote a few hours each month please call her at: 734 - 8786.

THE ENDLESS CHAIN

TIME -to make your reservations for the 26th Southwest Texas Area Conference to be held in Kerrville, Texas, October 7th - 10th at the beautiful In of the Hills.

AA's, Alanons, and Alateens will find a full schedule of events to delight them amid the Autumn opulance of the Hill Country at it's most gorgeous.

Registration includes all meetings, as well as a special program, dance and banquet. Mac McA. of New Mexico will be the Master of Ceremonies, and the finest of speakers will head up meetings.

This is a "don't miss "!"Pre-registrations are new being accepted, and a mere \$18.00 covers the whole package.

Checks should be made payable to:
 Southwest Conference
 1546 Glen Road
 Kerrville, Texas 78028

LIP SERVICE NOT ENOUGH

No man can consider himself a real member of AA, just because he doesn't drink. There is such a thing as having a sober body and a mind that retains drunken stupidity. The body will express lip service to the AA Program, butthe mind still wallows in an alcoholic quagmire. The physical sobriety is used only as a cloak to cover the same corruptive thinking and conniving that was always present in the mind. Dishonesty of thought and action is just as vicious in the sober man, because the sober man has not the excuse of befuddled judgement.

Anyone addicted to this form of hypocrisy is still controlled by alcoholic thinking. He retains his false pride, his complete selfishness, his super ego. He seeks no advice and rejects any that may be offered. His moral and ethical standards are fabricated on a loom built to suit his own perverted specification, and the cloak he weaves is as transparent as daylight. No one is deceived, except the deceiver, and even he must have his moments when he must admit his life is a sham. The solution for his problem is the same as it is for all of us:

WE PRACTICE THESE PRINCIPLES IN ALL
 OUR AFFAIRS.

-Anonymous -

JOHN WESLEY'S RULE

DO ALL THE GOOD YOU CAN.
 BY ALL THE MEANS YOU CAN.
 IN ALL THE WAYS YOU CAN.
 AT ALL THE TIMES YOU CAN.
 TO ALL THE PEOPLE YOU CAN.
 AS LONG AS EVER YOU CAN."

Overheard at the July STARR meeting:

"Everyone here loves everyone else -
and - it's the kind of love that won't
 get you pregnant!"

- Madlyn H.-

FINANCIAL CORNER
CENTRAL SERVICE OFFICE

GROUP	AUG.	TO DATE	GROUP	AUG.	TO DATE
Alamo Heights	\$ 15.00	120.00	Northeast	\$ 20.00	80.00
Audubon	10.00	80.00	Northwest	25.00	200.00
Bethany(Killeen)	-0-	3.00	Northwood	-0-	135.00
Boerne	-0-	15.00	Pilgrim	-0-	9.00
Brees	10.00	95.00	Portland	-0-	-0-
Bridge(N Brnfels)	10.00	80.00	Reality	10.00	80.00
Broadway	10.00	80.00	Reliance	-0-	20.00
Court House (Brnsvle)	-0-	11.00	San Pedro	10.00	70.00
Downtown	-0-	-0-	San Marcus	-0-	10.00
Feel Free (Lockhart)	-0-	-0-	SASH	-0-	10.00
Floresville	-0-	-0-	Santa Fe	70.00	75.00
Ft. Sam Houston	40.00	250.00	St. Agnes	-0-	5.00
Frontier	20.00	160.00	Seguin	5.00	40.00
Goliad	15.00	90.00	Serenity	10.00	80.00
Group 12	100.00	350.00	Sharing	-0-	-0-
Guidance	10.00	60.00	STARR	21.08	196.35
Grupo Esperanza	-0-	3.00	Stepping Stones	-0-	120.00
Happy Hour	-0-	-0-	Sunset	-0-	75.00
Harmony	-0-	-0-	The Haven	-0-	25.00
Highlands	20.00	160.00	Trinity	-0-	30.00
Hill Country	-0-	20.00	Twenty Four Hour	-0-	90.00
Hope	-0-	10.00	Grupo Unidad	-0-	30.00
Kerrville	-0-	50.00	Universal City	15.00	30.00
Women's Serenity (Kerrville)	-0-	36.00			
Killeen	-0-	3.00	Unity Group (Monterrey, Mexico)	-0-	40.00
Laurel Heights	15.00	85.00	Valley Hi	15.00	120.00
Lytle	-0-	10.00	V. A. Hospital	-0-	65.00
Luling	9.00	39.00	Villa Rosa	25.00	200.00
Mary Mont	20.00	60.00	Wesley	-0-	10.00
Grupo Montana	-0-	16.00	Windcrest	15.00	120.00
Seguin					
New Braunfels	-0-	-0-	Woodlawn Heights	-0-	30.00
NAS Hospital	-0-	15.00			
Corpus Christi					