

ALTERNATIVE

"INTER-GROUP NEWSLETTER FOR THE READING AREA" November, 1993

I AM RESPONSIBLE

When anyone, anywhere, reaches out for help, I want the hand of A.A. always to be there. And for that:

I AM RESPONSIBLE

"AS BILL SEES IT"

GIVE THANKS

Though I still find it difficult to accept today's pain and anxiety with any great degree of serenity - as those more advanced in the spiritual life seem able to do - I can give thanks for present pain nevertheless.

I find the willingness to do this by contemplating the lessons learned from past suffering - lessons which have led to the blessings I now enjoy. I can remember how the agonies of alcoholism, the pain of rebellion and thwarted pride, have often led me to God's grace, and so to a new freedom. (p. 66)

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Happy Thanksgiving

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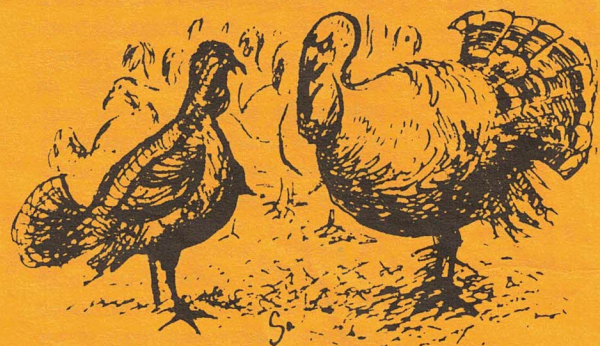
EASY
DOES
... IT ...

THINK...
THINK
....THINK

**BUT FOR
THE GRACE
OF GOD.**

From the November 1964 Grapevine

**LIVE
AND LET
LIVE..**



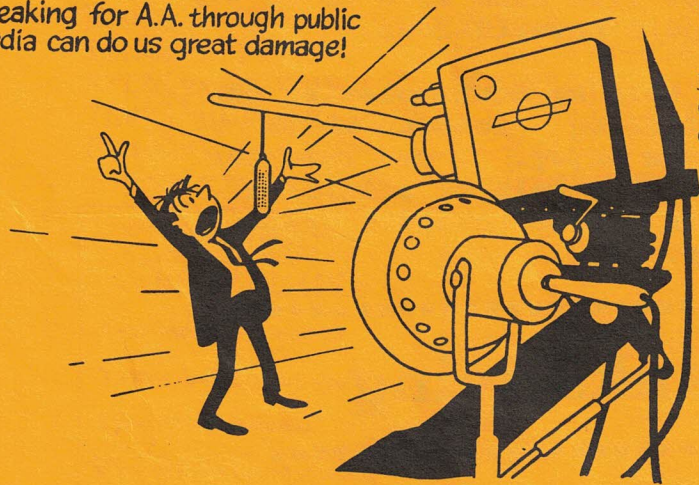
"Remember—no resentments!"

TRADITION ELEVEN

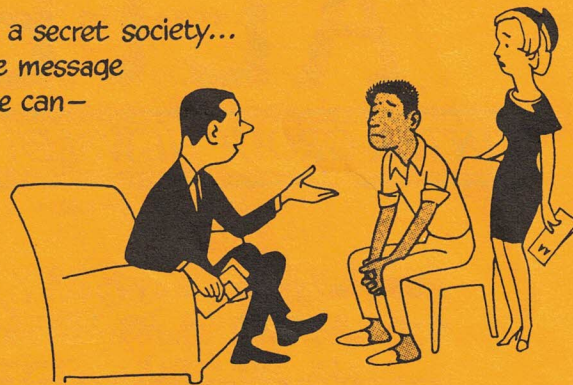
Our public relations policy is based on attraction rather than promotion; we need always maintain personal anonymity at the level of press, radio, and films.

Alcoholics who have recovered through our program are themselves the strongest attraction that A.A. has. When people are asked what led them to seek A.A. help, the answer given most often is: "An A.A. member." Their chances would have been slim if all of us had remained completely in hiding. But many of us have chosen to tell our friends, neighbors, employers, co-workers, doctors, or spiritual advisers that we are in A.A.—and when we do so, we are *not* breaking our anonymity in the meaning of this Tradition.

But we must ever be aware that self-appointed messiahs speaking for A.A. through public media can do us great damage!



Ours is not a secret society...
we carry the message
anywhere we can—



Suppose a sick alcoholic never has the good fortune to meet an A.A. How is such a person going to find us? The search will be difficult if the local group thinks *it* should be anonymous, too. The Tradition is talking about "*personal* anonymity," remember? Alcoholics will not be attracted to A.A. if they don't know that it exists or if they have distorted, unfavorable impressions of its members or its program.

Giving the general public an accurate picture of A.A. is the chief job of our public information committees. In addition, they often carry the message to certain groups—from police officers to personnel directors—whose work includes contact with active alcoholics.

DANGER SIGN

WHEN YOUR EYES HAVE WANDERED FROM THE ALCOHOLICS WHO STILL SUFFER AND NEED HELP — TO THE FAULTS OF THOSE WHOM THE PROGRAM HAS ALREADY HELPED.

WHAT DOES ANONYMITY MEAN TO A.A.?

Members of Alcoholics Anonymous make a point of carrying the message about their own recovery in A.A. on a person-to-person basis — but never disclose the membership of others. In this way, they may serve as examples of recovery and thus stimulate active alcoholics to seek help.

In public media, however — such as TV, radio, films, and the press — A.A. Traditions urge members to maintain strict anonymity, for three reasons:

1. We have learned from our own experience that the active alcoholic will shun any

source of help which might reveal his or her identity.

2. Past events indicate that those alcoholics who seek public recognition as A.A. members may drink again.
3. Public attention and publicity for individual members of A.A. would invite self-serving competition and conflict over differing personal views.

Anonymity in public media guards the unity of A.A. members and preserves the attraction of the program for the millions who still need help.

9TH ANNUAL RAAAC: Anyone interested in helping with the annual RAAAC please contact any of the following new officers:

Chair: Dan F.	Co-Chair: Chris M.
Treasurer: Rick F.	Public Information: Greg G.
Secretary: Andrea G.	Literature: Mark B.
Program: Thomas J.	Hospitality: Denny W.
Souvenirs: Scott D.	Registration: Mary Ann S.

OTHER COMING EVENTS-(See your Intergroup Rep or GSR for more info)
 November 12,13,14 - EPGSA Convention - Poconos
 Feb. 25,26,27, 1994 - 3rd Annual Northeast Regional Service
 Assembly, Niagara Falls, NY - Call Gary C. (717) 961 2151
 March 11,12,13, 1994 - Big Book Seminar - King of Prussia
 August 5-6-7, 1994 - East/West PA State Convention, State
 College, PA. Want to be involved? Call Joe Q. (717) 341-8175

Chairman: Neil W. 678-7936	Secretary: Chris M. 775-2120
Treasurer: Harry S. 562-0924	Hotline: Chris H. 371-0102
Mtg Schedule: Barry B. 929-4254	Alternative: Mary R. 478-8442
Books & Literature: Bob B. 376-6007	Unity: OPEN
Women's Prison: Della J. 375-0365	Men's Prison: Todd S. 373-2277
Archives: Harry S. 562-0924	CPCPI: Will E. 777-6299
Institutions: Harold S. 372-3411 and Marvin G. 376-2054	
Spanish Liaison: Luis M.777-6327 and Ramon R. 775-3394	

**KEEPING IT
 VERY SIMPLE**

- If you turn it on, turn it off.
- If you unlock it, lock it up.
- If you break it, admit it.
- If you can't fix it, call someone who can.
- If you borrow it, return it.
- If you value it, take care of it.
- If you make a mess, clean it up.
- If you move it, put it back.
- If you want to use someone's property, get permission.
- If you don't know how to operate it, leave it alone.
- If it's none of your business, don't ask questions.
- If it ain't broke, don't fix it.
- If it will brighten someone's day, say it.
- If it will tarnish someone's reputation, keep it to yourself.

February 1965



"You know the first thing this guy will worry about? His anonymity!"