

ALTERNATIVE

"INTER-GROUP NEWSLETTER FOR THE READING AREA" October, 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

12TH STEP VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The most important work we do is answer the call of the still suffering alcoholic. If you have one year or more of continuous sobriety, volunteer to speak evenings at St. Joseph's Detox. (One night a month, one night a year? whatever.)

Call 378-2060/61

Involvement

From the very beginning, Alcoholics Anonymous has been a movement of involvement. It began not as an institution, not as a club, and not as any kind of organization.

It began on a One to One basis. One person had found a path to sobriety and had communicated this to another.

This involvement in its truest meaning is *the willingness to give of what we have found to someone else*. The desire to see someone else freed from the compulsion to drink as we have been freed. This feeling of having shared in a common peril is the powerful element which binds us.

This then, is the capacity for love that shows itself in the wording of the Twelve Steps. They always read "We" and never "I". This is AA's involvement. This should be My involvement. This should be the involvement of every individual in our FELLOWSHIP.

It is common today to say of a great many things, "I don't want to get involved." We cannot afford to say that about AA.

There are too many still suffering alcoholics to reach out to. There are too many jobs to be done. And then, *there is the most telling reason of all for our involvement:*

Our Sobriety Depends On It.

The Messenger, Nashville, TN

TRADITION TEN

Alcoholics Anonymous has no opinion on outside issues; hence the AA name ought never be drawn into public controversy.

By Bill W.
(from the September 1948 Grapevine)



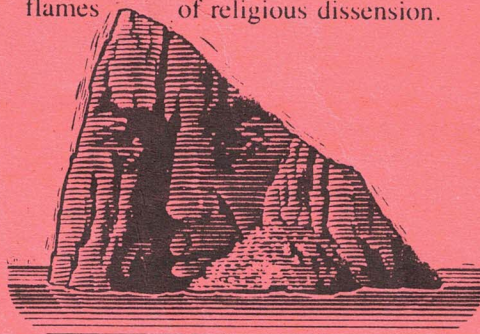
To most of us, Alcoholics Anonymous has become as solid as the Rock of Gibraltar. We like to believe that it will soon be as well-known and just as enduring as that historic landmark. We enjoy this pleasant conviction because nothing has yet occurred to disturb it; we reason that we must hang together or die. Hence we take for granted our continued unity as a movement.

But should we? Though God has bestowed upon us great favors, and though we are bound by stronger ties of love and necessity than most societies, is it prudent to suppose that automatically these great gifts and attributes shall be ours forever? If we are worthy, we shall probably continue to enjoy them. So the real question is, how shall we always be worthy of our present blessings?

Seen from this point of view, our AA Traditions are those attitudes and practices by which we may deserve,

as a movement, a long life and a useful one. To this end, none could be more vital than our Tenth Tradition, for it deals with the subject of controversy – serious controversy.

On the other side of the world, millions have died even recently in religious dissension. Other millions have died in political controversy. The end is not yet. Nearly everybody in the world has turned reformer. Each group, society and nation is saying to the other, "You must do as we say, or else." Political controversy and reform by compulsion have reached an all-time high. And eternal, seemingly, are the flames of religious dissension.



Being like other men and women, how can we expect to remain forever immune from these perils? Probably we shall not. At length, we must meet them all. We cannot flee from them, nor ought we try. If these challenges do come, we shall, I am sure, go out to meet them gladly and unafraid. That will be the acid test of our worth.

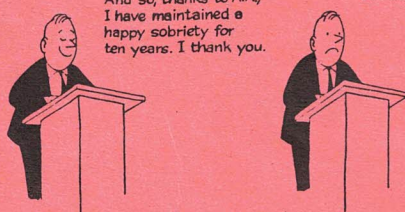
Our best defense? This surely lies in the formation of a Tradition respecting serious controversy so powerful that neither the weakness of persons nor the strain and strife of our troubled times can harm Alcoholics Anonymous. We know that AA must continue to live, or else many of us and many of our fellow alcoholics throughout the world will surely resume the hopeless journey to oblivion. That must never be.

As though by some deep and compelling instinct, we have thus far avoided serious controversies. Save minor and healthy growing pains, we are at peace among ourselves. And because we have thus far adhered to our sole aim, the whole world regards us favorably.

May God grant us the wisdom and fortitude ever to sustain an unbreakable unity.

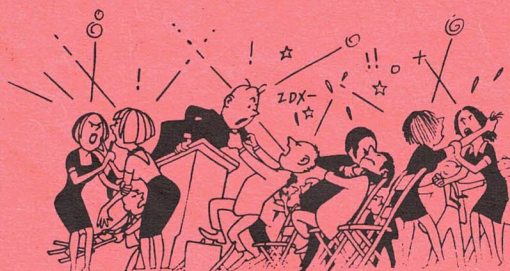
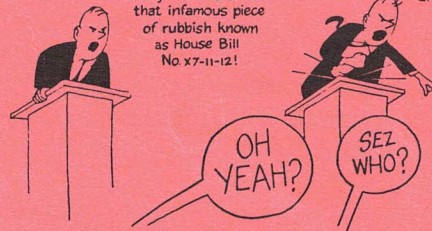
And so, thanks to A.A., I have maintained a happy sobriety for ten years. I thank you.

But before I leave...



...I know I speak for all of A.A. when I protest the current legislation before the Congress! I refer to that infamous piece of rubbish known as House Bill No. x7-11-12!

...It must not pass! And to that end I am sending a telegram in the name of A.A. and our group...



How could anyone get sober or stay sober in an outfit like that?

