

Conscious Honesty

Honesty, in AA, is a lot like spirituality. It's something that was considered by the Founders to be essential to maintaining sobriety, something which is hammered into us at the beginning of every meeting, and something of which most of us have only a rudimentary grasp when we first enter the program. Honesty, like spirituality, is an acquired virtue, one in which we can continue to grow both in understanding and in practice as we mature in AA.

When I came into AA, at the relatively advanced age of fifty-one, I thought I was an honest person. Indeed, on a superficial level I was. I was told as a child that lying, cheating, and stealing were wrong, and that I would be squashed like a bug if I were caught doing any of the things commonly labeled as dishonest. My parents were not ones to make idle threats. As a result, telling the truth became more or less second nature, and I was a very poor liar. When confronted, I would tell the truth rather than make a fool out of myself. In other words, my actions were purer than my motives.

My attitudes toward money and possessions were similar. I had strong inhibitions against putting hours I had not worked on my timecard, or making long distance phone calls on someone else's line, or misrepresenting something I was offering for sale, or any of the hundreds of other petty ways in which people commonly cheat each other. Again, a lot of my so-called honesty stemmed from fear - from certainty that I was a rank amateur in the thievery department, and would probably be caught.

I thus entered AA with the second hurdle in the honesty trajectory - that is, basic cash-register honesty - already surmounted, and since this is usually the newcomer's first focus, I became a little complacent. I say second hurdle, because every alcoholic labors under some degree of self-deception, and failing to make an honest appraisal of oneself early on will invariably lead to trouble later in the game. However, self-deception is much harder to recognize and eradicate than deception aimed at others. The practical advice in the Big Book and 12x12 recognizes this: although the Fourth Step is concerned with making a moral inventory, the newcomer is encouraged to concentrate on resentments toward others. Most people get around to the stubborn bits of self deception only after several years of sobriety and several passes through the 12 steps.

Candor is one aspect of honesty which tends to get short shrift among alcoholics. An obsession with personal privacy takes the place of outright lying. Instead of saying he was working late at the office, a man tells his partner that it's none of her business where he spent his evening. This sort of lying by omission, cloaked in the guise of personal autonomy, is if anything more destructive of interpersonal relationships than outright falsehood. A person who lies is unlikely to believe that it is his basic right to do so. Especially if drunk, he may become abusive if the target of his falsehoods disbelieves him, but unless he is a psychopath, he'll have some sense that what he has done is wrong. The person standing up for his privacy, on the other hand, may be fully convinced that his evasions represent the moral high ground.

Avoidance and isolationism detract from honesty. One can avoid both lying and telling the truth by having no interactions with other people at all. If one's life is so routine and regimented that little decision-making is possible, the opportunities to cheat are few and far between. The person who leads a solitary pickled existence minimizes his opportunities to be actively dishonest, but at the same time he reinforces one of the most pernicious forms of self-deception: "It's OK, because I'm not hurting anybody but myself."

Motives for telling the truth matter. I mentioned earlier that I told the truth and met my financial obligations principally because of fear of being caught



E.V.I. News

April 2004

Contents:

Conscious Honesty	1
AA Meetings	2
Intergroup News	3
EVI Meeting minutes	3
Contributions to EVI	4
The Hiding Place	4
Calendar and Events	5
Service Opportunities	5
People	6
Twelve Steps and Jewish Tradition	6
The EVI Break-in	6
Echoes in the Valley	7
Rule 62	7

Emerald Valley Intergroup
1259 Willamette St. Eugene, OR
97401-3509
(541) 342-4113

continued on page 2

AA Meetings:



New:

This Day: Saturday, 6-7pm, at St. Mark's Church, 1167 Sam Reynolds St., off West 11th near Bertelsen.

Dexter Women's Big Book Study
Wednesday, 7-8:30, Dexter Library

Changed:

Springfield Men's Stag is now held at 418 North A Street, Springfield. 7PM - 8:30PM Wednesday evenings.

Tuesday Junction City Group, meeting at the First Christian Church, now starts at 7:00 pm.

Canceled:

After Breakfast Grioup, Monday Wednesday Friday, 9:30 AM, at the Townhouse, Roosevelt Blvd.

Solutions Living in AA, Tuesday 6:30, 1038 Washington.

Emotional Sobriety, Jesco Club, 6:00 pm Sundays.

Topic of interest:

The Oregon Area Website Address is: www.aa-oregon.org. Check it out. The monthly area newsletter is posted on this site, as well as information relevant to quarterly assemblies.

Please remember to let us know if your group stops meeting. It's a lot easier to remember when you are starting a meeting, but if you stop meeting, remembering to remove it from meeting lists may save someone frustration and more when they really need a meeting. To submit changes of any kind please fill out a form in the "Meeting Book Changes" book at the EVI office. Ask a volunteer at the front desk for it. You may also phone in any changes during EVI office hours.

Continued from page 1 (Conscious Honesty)

acted otherwise. As a first approximation, this is better than nothing, but it is desirable to find some spur to honesty which is equally applicable under all circumstances, and fixes on a positive goal rather than a negative alternative.

Sometimes malice and resentment add 'honesty' to their arsenal. A scathing attack on another individual may be 'honest' in the sense of containing no false information, but it is dishonest of a person to make such an attack in the name of common interest, concealing that he hates the target for quite different reasons, or will profit from his enemy's discomfiture.

We can never know, let alone communicate, the entire truth about a complex subject. In everything that we utter, and in every transaction that we undertake, we exercise a good deal of selectivity about what is made evident to all and what we conceal. The self-deluded person exercises this selectivity unconsciously, according to a pattern which distorts the output. The dishonest person distorts the output consciously, in ways which further his own ends at the expense of others. A naively honest person is apt to communicate too much information, in a confusing manner, obscuring crucial details.

There remains the consciously honest person, who weighs the impact his actions are likely to have and lets the probable results govern his selectivity. It is here that malice and benevolence come into play. One can arrange and edit the facts maliciously, deliberately seeking to harm others, or selfishly, without respect for others, or respectfully, making the truth serve justice and human happiness.

Recently I was confronted with a situation which brought into focus the complexities of conscious honesty, when I was asked to write a letter of recommendation for a man with a few skeletons in his closet. Candor would dictate that I include any information which the prospective employer needed to make an informed choice, but the person asking me for a recommendation clearly expected that I would not say anything to damage his chances. I had to make a choice: whether to tell the complete and unvarnished truth, betraying an implicit agreement with a person who trusted me with his reputation, or to send a letter which contained some distortions, or to refuse to write a recommendation at all, in which case the task would most probably fall to a less scrupulous person. I wrote the letter, omitting all reference to the skeletons, one or two of which were in fact relevant. I made a conscious decision based on a perception that betraying another person's confidence, even if there is no explicit pledge to secrecy, is more damaging to social relationships than failing to provide information, and therefore, unless the potential consequences of failing to communicate damaging information about another person are grave, it is better to remain silent. The ethics of revealing information about one's self are somewhat different, but there are surely times when public confessions serve no useful purpose, and come under the heading of self-defeating behavior.

Martha S
Eugene, Oregon

From the Diagnostic Manual of Fictitious and Spurious Pathologies (DMFSP):

Burdett's Syndrome

(Not a mental illness - a social disease)

The compulsion to demand immediate change in the status quo, by a person with no authority and minimal knowledge of the situation. Named for Sir Francis Burdett (ca. 1778-1835), radical member of British Parliament.

This ailment is rampant among volunteers in social service agencies. It has no known cure, and is exacerbated by alcohol consumption.

EVI Business Meeting Minutes

March 8, 2004

I. Old Business:

Motion to change by-laws increasing equipment replacement fund from \$1000 to \$2000 passed.

March Rotations/Elections:

Speaker Meeting Co-Chair: Donna H (463-1300) presented service resume and was elected.

Vice-Treasurer: Bob E (747-2246) elected vice-treasurer

Office Co-coordinator: Two people were available: Kathy and Bob P. Bob P(434-1045) elected Co-coordinator

Communications Chair: This Committee elects its own chair. Jesse R(485-3474) is available.

Diverter Co-Chair: Joe H(232-1267) elected new co-chair

Public Information Chair and Co-Chair: After some confusion (it was unclear at first that both positions were being voted on) Shevach L(683-5254) was elected chair, and Kathy B(687-1231) co-chair.

Outreach Co-chair: Lee F(302-1408) gave service resume and was elected new co-chair

II. 7:04 Steering Committee Report:

The Committee voted to recommend giving back the \$2000.00 EVI received from a will, to be used in Springfield. After a lengthy discussion, this motion was tabled, to be taken back to groups. Steering Committee explained why they felt accepting the money might violate the seventh tradition. District 20, which includes Springfield, would send the money to GSO.

III. 7:25 Announcements from the floor:

AI-Anon and AA Panel on Spiritual Recovery, 9:45-12:00 on April at North Park Community Church

IV. 7:27 Committee Reports:

H&I: Changes need to be made to the Meeting Directories...will talk to Lee

Corrections: need to get abbreviated meeting list from PI - Shevach will handle.

Lane County Psychiatric Ward will be shutting down; they are trying to set-up an outreach program and will contact H&I

VA Clinic on Bertelsen: Needs more outside volunteers for a step study meeting at 2:30-3:30 on Mondays

Treasurer: Lori B: Distributed monthly financial report showing income and expenses. Contributions from groups continue to be up over last year. We are above our prudent reserve and will shortly be making a contribution to GSO. The cost for an outside audit is more than anticipated; treasurer is still investigating this and has not gone ahead with it.

Office Coordinator: Bill B: 18 shifts have 3 volunteers and 4 shifts have 2 volunteers

New volunteers are always needed; interested parties should contact the EVI office.

Literature: Todd and Mindy did an inventory and put in an order. Tapes of Big Book have been ordered.

Website: Jesse R: Website doing fine; newsletter will be available online in 2 days.

Meeting Directories: Lee: 1000 directories are left in current batch; H&I updates will be added to remaining stock.

Newsletter: John G: Treasurer's last name was inadvertently included. March issue has all local stories and contributions. Encourage members of your group to submit articles, jokes, etc.

Diverter: Bob E. Running smoothly. Could use more volunteers.

PI: Bob P: Public service announcements from GSO have been distributed to local TV and radio stations. Hope to have an AA table at the Eugene Irish Cultural Festival in March. Could use an AA table at the Buckley House Benefit Concert, March 19, at the McDonald Theater.

CPC: Nadine and Patty met; they are exploring having the Area CPC chair come and do a workshop.

Outreach: Tom S Made a presentation at Attitude Adjustment meeting; this Committee welcomes invitations to attend local group business meetings.

Archivist: Jim G (given by Kurt J) examined materials on history of Buckley House, will have report next month.

Adjourned 7:55:

Closed with the Serenity Prayer

Respectfully submitted, Jenne B, EVI Committee Secretary

(slightly abridged and reformatted by newsletter co-chair; these minutes have not been approved at an EVI business meeting)



EVI Office

1259 Willamette
Eugene, OR 97401-3509
Monday-Friday 9:00 am-5:30 pm
Saturday 9:00 am - 4:00 pm
Drop by for a visit!

EVI Web Site

www.efn.org/~eviaa

Meeting schedules, business meeting minutes, and much more.

The little squiggle in the address is found right next to the exclamation point on the keyboard. Save a book mark or favorite and check back often!

E.V.I. News

Emerald Valley Intergroup's Newsletter for the A.A. Community in Lane County

EVI News is a monthly newsletter of the Emerald Valley Intergroup. It is about, by, and for the members of Alcoholics Anonymous fellowship. Opinions expressed herein are not to be attributed to Alcoholics Anonymous as a whole, nor does publication of any article or event or notice imply endorsement by either Alcoholics Anonymous or EVI. (Exceptions: Quotations from A.A. books or pamphlets which are reprinted with permission of A.A. World Services, Inc.) EVI News is produced to support communication within the fellowship; please respect the anonymity of any A.A. member mentioned herein. EVI News reserves the right to edit any submissions for clarity, length, language, and editorial policy. Contributions gratefully accepted for consideration for publication.

Submissions due by last Monday of each month. To submit articles or event information, mail them or drop them off at the EVI office c/o EVI Newsletter. Please include a contact phone #. Submissions can also be e-mailed to: eviaa@efn.org or msherw@oregon.uoregon.edu. Communication Committee (Newsletter & Web Site, Meeting Book) meetings are held at 6pm the first Friday of each month at the EVI office. Call John G (686-5602) with any questions.

Contributions: The Hiding Place (For That Bottle, That is)

March 2004/Year to Date)
As Bill Sees It 0/0
Attitude Adjustment 55.80/163.05
Autumn Group 0/0
Brown Bag Group 75.00/150.00
Cottage Grove Gratitude 0/0
Cottage Grove Noon 0/0
Courage to Change 0/0
Creswell AI-Anon 25.00/25.00
Downtown AM Group 213.00/577.00
Early Firehouse Group 20.00/20.00
Freedom of Choice 72.00/72.00
Friday Night BB Study 220/220
From The Heart 156.00/156.00
Get Well Group 0/0
Gratitude Group 0/0
The Great Fact Group 0/0
How It Works 55.00/130.00
Last Chance Study Group 30.00/30.00
McKenzie River Group 0/0
Monday Mens Stag 50.00/50.00
Monday Night Beginners 0/0
New Freedom 0/0
New Freedom II 0/0
Primary Purpose 0/0
Recovery By The Steps 15.00/15.00
Rush Hour Group 25.00/25.00
Saturday Morning Steps 258.50/258.50
Search For Serenity 86.00/344.00
Sober Awakenings 0/0
Sobriety for Life 130.00/130.00
Springfield Monday Night 0/0
Stairway to Sobriety 25.00/25.00
Sunday Morning 0/0
Sunday Sunshine 0/0
Sunlight of the Spirit 25.00/25.00
Sunday Big Book 116.72/116.72
Sunday Night B.B. Study 0/0
Thurs. Men's Book Study 0/0
Thurs. Men's Spons. Group 0/0
Try God Group 217.50/217.50
Tuesday Night Mens Stag 0/0
Veneta Gratitude Group 0/0
Vet's and Friends 100.00/100.00
We Need Each Other 0/0
Wed. Night Men's Stag 15.00/255.00
Women's Bedrock 0/0
Women's Courage to Change 0/0
Women's How It Works 10.00/45.00
Womans Rd. to Recovery 0/0
Women's Wednesday 0/0
Total Contributions Group
month/ytd 737.20/3138.17

Contributions: Individual

Anonymous/Unknown 124.56/199.12
Faithful Fivers 130/250
Total Contributions/Ind.
254.61/449.12 (omits a \$2000 bequest
which Steering Committee voted to return-
status is pending.)

The other morning, at my home group, the thread of sharing somehow turned to the numerous and often ludicrous ways in which alcoholics attempt to hide their booze. It occurred to me that the proverbial image of an ostrich burying its head in the sand and then believing that it has avoided danger, something none of us has seen first hand, and which may not even be based on fact, might be replaced by the image of an alcoholic, reeking of alcohol and behaving like a complete boor, who imagines that no-one will notice if he carries his drink in a paper cup labeled Coca-Cola.

The first man to broach the subject recounted how he used to hide his beverage of choice in the garage, inside a box of seven year old tax records, and was both surprised and indignant when his wife not only searched the box, but confronted him and demanded to know why there were empty whisky bottles in it. Another man confessed to taping his bottle to the lid of the garbage can, and imagining that he garnered the gratitude of his family by always volunteering to take out the garbage.

There followed a man who did not merely tape his bottle to the lid of the garbage can, but constructed a little hinged device which enabled him to pour when he was three sheets to the wind. Unfortunately, the garbage man discovered his secret stash, and availed himself of it while on the job. This ultimately led to the garbage man getting fired.

People who drink on the job have a need to conceal their stash not only from bosses, but also from other alcoholics in the workplace, especially the janitorial staff who work unsupervised at night. A chemist of my acquaintance, who was known on occasion to indulge in the 95% ethanol himself, noticed that it was disappearing from his laboratory shelves at an alarming rate. Suspecting the janitor, he re-labeled the bottle "ethylene hydroxide," and the depredations stopped.

Vodka seems to be the beverage of choice for alcoholics who feel the need to conceal their drinking in the workplace or in a home with a nonalcoholic partner. A persistent myth circulates, to the effect that people can't smell vodka on your breath. Some people may be fooled, though personally I'd sooner that people smelled the beer and recognized my drunkenness for what it was, than that they supposed that I was always clumsy, surly, maudlin and lacking in personal hygiene.

It is true, however, that the person who drinks vodka or other hard liquor has an easier time concealing his stash and disposing of his empties than the beer or wine drinker, and thus may be better able to maintain denial of the amount that he is drinking. My beverage of choice was Old English 800, and believe me, those 40-ouncers are not easy to conceal. Towards the end of my drinking career, when I was living with my sister and teenage daughter and trying to conceal my worsening alcoholism from both, I resorted to all sorts of clever stratagems. Making the rounds of stores within a two mile radius of my home, and lugging those bottles up a steep hill, maintained personal fitness. I'd hide the bottle in the boxwood hedge, walk nonchalantly in the front door in full view of my house partners, then exit through a back door to retrieve it. I'd made a couple of handy bags by sewing up the cut off legs of jeans and running a drawstring through the hem; I'd slip my 40-ouncer into this, put it on a hanger, and hang it in my clothes closet. Of course the bedroom still smelled like beer, but at least my housemates didn't know how much. Returning the empties meant another round of the stores, or slipping them into somebody else's recycling box. If I was still drinking, I'd definitely be grateful for automated bottle returns.

The final story of alcohol concealment told at our morning meeting topped them all. This gentleman shared how he was hit with a stiff fine for violating Oregon's open container law, back when the DUI laws were less draconian.

continued on page 7

April Calendar

- 1st Mon Steering Committee 6:30PM
Tue District 20, 6:30PM 418 A St. Ken L. 747-8270
Tue District 33, 6:30PM Alan U. 741-2617
Wed District 19, 5:30PM Sandy V. 485-4827
Thur Speaker Mtg Committee, 7:00PM Vicki 688-5042
Fri Communication Meeting, 6:00PM
Sat Cooperation with Professional Community, Noon
Sun Activities, 5:00PM Holly 338-0316
- 2nd Mon EVI Business Meeting 6:30PM
Wed District 6, 6:30PM Tim A. 726-8558
Sat Answering/Diverter, 9:00AM Julien 520-7408
Sat EVI Speaker's Meeting, 7:30PM, 2801 W. 18th
- 3rd Tues Public Information, 6:00PM Bob P. 434-1045
Last Wed H& I Committee, 6:00PM
Last Day Literature Committee, 6:30PM



Fellowship Events

Summerfest 04 will take place July 9-11, at the Eugene Hilton. Information on speakers and registration forms can be found at www.aa-summerfest.org, or at the EVI office.

The 29th Rogue Roundup happens at the Josephine County Fairgrounds, April 30-May 2. For registration info see www.rogueroundup.com.

The Pacific Regional Forum, at the Doubletree Columbia River Inn in Portland, happens July 16-18, and features presentations and workshops by Trustees and staff of the AA General Service Office. This is open to any AA member. There is no registration fee.

The May Area Quarterly Assembly takes place in Beaverton, May 14-16, 2004. The program includes workshops as well as a business meeting; any AA member is welcome to attend.

The Pacific Northwest Conference, Joy of Living, Happens July 2, 3, 4 in Yakima. Registration Info is available in the EVI office.

Pathfinders (formerly Recovery Riders) organizes outdoor events for AA members and their families. Check out their website (<http://www.geocities.com/recoveryriders/>) for information on trips.

The First Sunday A.A. speaker meeting on April 4 at 1:30 pm at the Hilyard Community Center will feature Dee W., of Roseburg - 52 years sober. This meeting has real time captioning for deaf and hard of hearing people, and provides child care.

Monroe Stark Raving Sobriety is sponsoring the Annual campfire meeting at Hubert McBee Memorial Park/ Alsea Falls, June 11-13, with campfire meetings Friday and Saturday night, and a spiritual breakfast Sunday A.M. Flier in EVI office has more information.

Gratitude:



Currently Available Service Positions:

H&I has a constant, and varied need for people willing to do a little to a lot of service work. There is also a special need for women volunteers for Lane County Jail, CCC, Willamette Valley Treatment, etc.

Public Information needs people with transportation to deliver literature. There is no minimum sobriety requirement for most PI service positions.

The Diverter seeks volunteers to take calls to the local AA number after hours. Contact Julien (520-7408) for details, or obtain information and application forms from the EVI office.

The EVI Office can always use people who are able to answer phones and perform office functions for one four hour shift per week. Contact Doug (461-3872), or stop by the office for information.

Anyone Interested in a

REALLY early morning meeting?

If you could use a meeting from 5:45-6:45 A.M., Tuesdays and Thursdays, in downtown Eugene, contact Chaz (485-7130)

Addresses for Group Contributions

Emerald Valley Intergroup
1259 Willamette Street
Eugene, OR 97401-3509
Contributions for Districts 6, 19, 20, and 33 may also be sent to the above address. Indicate the district on the envelope.

Oregon Area 58 Treasury
PMB 172
1972 NE 3rd St.
Bend, OR 97701

AA General Service Office
PO Box 459
Grand Central Station
New York, NY 10163-0459

People:



OFFICE VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR

Doug R. (461-3872), Bob P. (434-1045)

ACTIVITIES

Holly S. (338-0316), Sara (686-2247)

ANSWERING SERVICE

Julien X. (541-520-7408), Joe H. (232-1267)

ARCHIVIST

Jim G. (689-5052), Bob T. (342-1588)

COOP. PROFESSIONAL COMMUNITY(CPC)

Nadine P. (683-5730), Patty

E.V.I. COMMUNICATIONS:

Newsletter: John G. (686-5602),

Martha S. (687-9569)

Website: Jessie(485-3474), Karla B. (744-0509)

Meeting Directories: Lee P.(741-9824),

Denna(344-7996)

E.V.I. SPEAKER MEETING

Vicki K. (688-5042), Donna H.

LITERATURE

Todd P.(689-4646), Mindy F. (954-2048)

OUTREACH

Tom S. (686-8388), Lee F. (302-1408)

PUBLIC INFORMATION (PI)

Shevach (683-5254), Kathy B. (687-1321)

HOSPITALS & INSTITUTIONS (H&I)

Chair: Larry W. (513-5626)

HOSPITALS

Chair: Steve S.(914-9258), Todd (302-6377)

COOP. TREATMENT FACILITIES(CTF)

Janis B. (935-8833), Cayce (520-5635)

CORRECTIONS

Chair: Tom R. (465-1832), Bob L.(689-6960)

H&I Coordinators

Lane County Jail: Ted H. (338-8380)

C.C.C. (Women's): Sandy V. (485-4827)

C.C.C. (Men's): Tom R. (465-1832)

Alma Work Camp: Bud W. (935-8833)

Pathways: Kenny (461-2937)

Serbu Detention: Jack C. (463-1040)

Carlton House: Joe C. (554-3558)

W.F.T.-Friday Night: Janis (935-8833)

W.F.T.-Book Study: Leslie B. (606-5776),

Mindy H. (954-2048)

Serenity Lane-Speaker: Cayce (746-6990)

Serenity Lane-B.T.G.: Gus P. (463-1691)

Serenity Lane-Sat. Cindy D. (988-0183),

Jason (912-8217)

L.C.P.H.: Todd(302-6377), Bruce(302-3050)

Johnson U.: Steve(914-9258), Jill(302-1311)

V.A. Meeting: Dennis (607-5127)

E.V.I. STEERING COMMITTEE

Chair: Kurt J. (747-8925)

Co-Chair: Bob T. (342-1588)

Secretary: Jenne B. (688-1189)

Treasurer: Lori B. (684-8670)

Vice Treasurer: Bob E. (747-2246)

At-Large: Amanda W. (988-9656)

At-Large: Bill N. (747-7486)

At-Large: Ken L. (747-8270)

At-Large: Lori P. (343-2515)

BOOKKEEPER: Elizabeth R.

The Twelve Steps and Jewish Traditions

Rabbi Abraham Twerski defines alcoholics as people who need alcohol to perform a normal social function. Waking up is a normal social function. So is going to school and Synagogue, showing up at work, attending a party, visiting family, going to a football or baseball game, going to a play or symphony, going out to dinner, driving a car...

The above definition of an alcoholic generally describes me, a Jewish alcoholic. I grew up in a middle-class Jewish home in a nice, Chicago middle-class Jewish neighborhood. However, there was one thing wrong: my parents, my aunt and uncle, and many of their social friends, were heavy drinkers. In my mother and father's generation, drinking was described as a social event brought on by Prohibition, the Depression and World War II. No one imaged himself or herself as an alcoholic, and of course definitely not a Jewish one. In my early and middle teens I realized that my parents had a serious problem with alcohol. What I did not know was that the problem was alcoholism and that I would also develop the same malady. It wasn't until I was 39 years old that I discovered, through my wife and Alcoholics Anonymous, that I was suffering from the progressive and fatal disease of alcoholism. I also learned there was hope for me once I stopped denying that I was an alcoholic and admitted that I was powerless over alcohol and that my life had become unmanageable. Twenty-nine years have passed since that fateful day. Through the A.A. fellowship I continue to recover and have been able to maintain uninterrupted sobriety.

The belief that there are no Jewish alcoholics is a harmful myth. The number of recovering Jews is growing. Unfortunately, other Jews with the disease are dying from the denial of it. Recovering Jews we need to find new ways to be included in Jewish life. We need to reach out to those in our own community who are still suffering. I am proof that we can live in a society that has so often denied our existence as both Jews and chemically dependent people.

Bob P. Eugene, OR

INADVERTENT OUTREACH - THE EVI BREAK-IN

At least one member of Eugene's criminal community took on our local Alcoholics Anonymous Office on the weekend of March 20-21, and came off rather the worse for it. At some time between 5 pm on Saturday, when our book-keeper collected Saturday's proceeds and left the usual \$25.00 in change in the safe in the back room, and 6 pm on Sunday, burglars broke into the office next door, stole a number of pieces of electronic equipment, and then broke into our office via the back passageway. Seeing an impressive safe in the store-room, they assumed it was worth cracking. They proceeded to ransack our tool chest, steal a hammer, and attack the safe with a degree of violence which broke the hammer and left bloody fingerprints all over the safe and a trail of blood across the carpet. If the Eugene Police, who did investigate in person, are serious about catching these thieves, they won't lack for evidence.

Imagine the look on our safecrackers' faces when they discovered a measly \$25.00 in the safe, plus the key to an office which contained one very bulky, rather old computer, a broken scanner, and a copier covered with notes documenting its periodic malfunctions. They also got the key to the dumpster. Had it not been for the somewhat more lucrative haul next door, this would almost qualify for an anthology of the world's stupidest crimes. We were probably fortunate that the culprits did not trash our office out of disappointment and frustration.

This incident does highlight one of the advantages of corporate poverty; Alcoholics Anonymous does not need to expend a great deal of energy worrying that it will be the target of thieves and confidence artists. An intelligent criminal will realize that we are not worth the effort, and a stupid one will probably be thwarted by simple precautionary measures. Additionally, a sizeable fraction of the criminal population is well informed about the nature of Alcoholics Anonymous, having at one time or another been referred to us. On those rare occasions when thieves prove to be both stupid and determined, we can always laugh.

Martha S., Eugene

Echoes in the Valley

(Echoes in the Valley is a collection of wit and wisdom heard in and around the valley. While not always original, they are shared by local folk at local events. If you hear anything at a meeting that you think others would enjoy or benefit from, please drop it off in the Newsletter Box at EVI. Quotes are credited to the speaker with permission, otherwise they are anonymous.)

"I was too drunk to walk, so I drove."

Anonymous, Sober Awakening

"I'm majoring in minor matters."

Downtown A.M.

"Joining AA is sort of like getting married. Suddenly you're part of your wife's family - and they're all, like, wierdos. They all do stuff different. But after a while you start to fit in."

Damien, Downtown A.M.

"Alcohol worked for me. It made me deathly sick. That's what I enjoyed - getting deathly sick and bragging about it."

Bob, Downtown A. M.

"I have seasonal defectiveness disorder."

Nick, Sober Awakening

"Nothing disturbs my balance like other people. Unfortunately, they're all over the place."

Lila R.

An AA comeback to the old saw: "Ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall set you free." - "You will hear the spiritual truth, and you will be pissed."

from Jean C. - source uncertain.



Continued from page 4 (The Hiding Place)

Anxious not to repeat the incident, but still unclear on the concept (i.e., that drinking and driving is a bad idea), he remembered that his car had a reservoir of windshield washer fluid under the hood, which was connected to a pump. Being mechanically inclined, he realized that this fluid delivery system could be modified to dispense alcohol. With the help of some valves and tubing purchased from an aquarium supply store, he proceeded to modify his vehicle so that there was a convenient tap under the dashboard. The system worked perfectly. The next time he was pulled over, the officer, smelling alcohol, searched the vehicle thoroughly, but could not find an open container. All was well until our inventive soul decided to fill his reservoir with 151 rum. This potent solvent dissolved key components of his delivery system, and he was back to square one.

Non-alcoholics probably listen to stories such as the above, and dismiss them as urban folklore, along with the tale of the girl who had black widow spiders nesting in her beehive hairdo. I can only vouch for the authenticity of my own experience, but I do know this: for the alcoholic, life while drinking is often incredibly bizarre.

Martha S.
Eugene, Oregon



Rule 62:

Rule 62

Two choice alcohol-related boners from "Anguished English" by Richard Lederer.

He sees things from an unusual vintage point.

The most unpleasant thing about him is, that when he isn't drunk, he's sober.

Quote from a witness in an 1822 assault case stemming from a brawl in a London tavern:
"I was all alone at the time, Your Honor, and I have witnesses to prove it."



Faithful Fiver Pledge:

Emerald Valley Intergroup
1259 Willamette
Eugene, Oregon 97401

GET THE NEWS!

- I pledge \$5 per month to support EVI and service work in my community
- I'm feeling grateful, I can send _____ per month
- I will mail or drop off my contribution: Monthly
- Four times a year (\$15 each)
- Once a year (\$60)

Name:

Address:

when you acknowledge my contribution, please list me as (first name, Initial, or nickname):

"Faithful Fivers" are individuals who donate \$5 or more per month to help support Intergroup. We will post your nick name on a board in the office, with a little red dot placed for each months contribution, so you can track of your contribution. (We don't remind you, or otherwise keep track of it for you, and we will send you a newsletter whether or not you have remembered to send in your pledge.) You can contribute monthly, quarterly or yearly, and if you check the receipt box, and are on the News mailing list, we will send you a receipt at the end of the year. (If you want a receipt, but would like to save EVI postage by picking up the News at the Office, or the EVI Business Meeting, fill out your nickname and address, but write "no news" next to your address.)



stamp

Emerald Valley Intergroup
1259 Willamette Street
Eugene, Oregon 97401