



# A NEW LEAF

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## The Smoking Tub

by: Alice K., District 6

I was recently given a blessing. When I got it I didn't recognize it as a blessing, but I have come to believe that most blessings are like Halloween; they are dressed up to look like one thing when actually they are another. Trick or treat - you pick.

At first what happened definitely felt like a trick. The day was one where I had been free from the obsession. Except for calling my sponsor that day marijuana or being an addict had not been on my mind. It was my night off and instead of going to a meeting, I stayed at home with my boyfriend to "gaze and graze." We had gone out and picked up a video and some takeout and were comfortably enjoying the evening.

Towards the end of the movie I decided I would start myself a bath since that is one of my favorite ways to relax and review the day. As I started to get up from the couch, I casually said to my boyfriend, "I think I'll roll myself a tub." I was stunned!

My boyfriend laughed and said "Really, Can I watch? How many papers do you think it will take?" "Ha, ha, ha," I replied. "I can't believe I just said that. I guess I must be a real marijuana addict."

While I soaked in my beloved hot water, what I had said played over and over in my mind and the next few days the event haunted me. What was going

on in the back of my head, anyway? Why had I said that when marijuana hadn't consciously been on my mind?

The answers to those questions obviously are in the fact that I really am a REAL addict. The pleasure of a smoke and the pleasure of a hot soak have been

*"... I have come to believe that most blessings are like Halloween; they are dressed up to look like one thing when actually they are another."*

on my hit parade for a long time. Now that I no longer indulge in smoking, it looked like the back of my head had sent up a "have a joint" flag.

At first I was upset and depressed by what had happened, feeling like the disease was out to get me (like I already didn't know that). I didn't stay in that frame of mind very long though, cause I have these tools I have learned from MA.

## My Gratitude

by Dave T., District 8

Today I really have gratitude for my recovery, which has several dimensions. I actively abused marijuana and cocaine for fifteen years, starting at the age of fifteen. On a deeper level, I had been depressed since early childhood. My parents divorced when I was nineteen, but the feeling of divorce became as permanent and eternal as the feeling of

I tuned it over to God and here is where the blessing part comes in.

I realized that God had given me an insurance policy (nice treat, huh). A policy that I can use anytime my disease tries to romance me into thinking I'm not an addict. When that happens I can remind myself of the time when I wanted to "roll myself a tub," something that only could happen to a real addict.

I'm okay with that experience now, in fact I'm grateful. The program has taught me to accept the things I cannot change and God gives me the courage to change the ones I can, plus the wisdom to know the difference. It doesn't get any better than that. Whether it's a good day or a bad one.

Nice blessing. Thanks God! R

real love that my family shares. I also suffered a longstanding sexual abuse from someone who was entrusted to take care of me.

I perceived myself as a complete misfit, utterly rejected by my classmates and by the entire opposite sex. I withdrew into an

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The purpose of *A NEW LEAF* is to carry the message of recovery from marijuana addiction. It is through the written experiences of recovering addicts and their stories that we may find experience, strength and hope.

Articles submitted should reflect recovery, unity and service. The articles contained in *A NEW LEAF* are the sole opinions of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of Marijuana Anonymous as a whole.

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## ~ The Roving Reporter ~

*Here are a few question that we asked members  
at the 3rd Annual Marijuana Anonymous Convention  
in San Diego.*

**Question: What does "Principles before personalities"  
mean to you?**

**Tammy C.-Orange County 1 yr, 4 mos**  
Having different opinions and still supporting someone in the program. Keeping an open mind and accepting people as they are. By not passing judgement, and setting the principles of the program first and foremost. We are all here for the same purpose, to stay clean and help others to achieve the same.

**Steve R.-LA, South 9 mos**  
EVERYTHING!

**Brandon R.-East Bay 2 yrs, 8 mos**  
It means... When your best friend in recovery is about to 13-step a newcomer, you say "I don't agree with your plan of action!" Or... When your ring of recovery friends are going out for coffee, you make a point of bringing a newcomer.

**Carol MC.-LA, North 8 yrs, 8 mos**  
I'm gonna get the principles of this program in spite of the darn personalities in this program... no matter what!

**Lee R. Delaware Valley, PA 1 yr**  
The message, not the messenger.

**Van W. -LA, North 23 yrs, 11 mos**  
There are at least 24 spiritual principles that operate by way of the Steps and Traditions. I did not invent any of them. For them to be active in my life, I have to get beyond not only my addiction, but my ego. It helps to be clearer when I can even get myself out of the way. By the grace of God, these spiritual attributes become evident, NOT my fear, anger, and hurt. That is spiritual maturity, as I have experienced it.

## Congratulations to our members celebrating their sober birthdays!



Sean D.	Feb 1	7 yrs
Papa Joe S.	Feb 1	4 yrs
Eric M.	Feb 1	4 yrs
Angel S.	Feb 1	8 yrs
Rick B.	Feb 1	8 yrs
Paul A.	Feb 5	1 yr!
Victoria C.	Feb 6	2 yrs
George B.	Feb 6	9 yrs
Hiking Mike K.	Feb 6	9 yrs
Steve G.	Feb 8	5 yrs
Bill D.	Feb 9	7 yrs
Bruce H.	Feb 12	1 yr!
Anne W.	Feb 12	8 yrs
Billy B.	Feb 13	4 yrs
Kathryn R.	Feb 14	4 yrs
Dan Z.	Feb 14	4 yrs

Brad C.	Feb 14	1 yr!
Cindy K.	Feb 15	4 yrs
Dave T.	Feb 16	4 yrs
Mark B.	Feb 18	3 yrs
Margaret F.	Feb 24	6 yrs
Terry M.	Feb 24	9 yrs
Richard M.	Feb 25	4 yrs
Jonathan R.	Feb 26	5 yrs
HALcolholic N.	Feb 26	6 yrs
Randy P.	Feb 27	4 yrs
Matty D.	Feb 29	9 yrs

**Question: How do you feel about the idea of selling MA "memorabilia"  
(ie: T-shirts, mugs, stickers) at your regular meeting?**

**AND**

**How about at special events such as Conventions or Conferences?**

**Van W. -LA, North** 23 yrs, 11 mos

I do not really support sales at meetings. I do support authorized items at events - including campouts, dances, and District functions.

**Carol T.-East Bay** 8 mos

Not at meetings. But, there is a recovery store in my area.

**Trisa A.-Portland** 1 yr

As long as it doesn't interfere with a meeting in progress. It's also a great way to make a newcomer feel "a part of". It shows how the money works. AND you also get treasured stuff. Fellowship is the word! I am so CHARGED before, during and after Conventions and Conferences.

**Michelle E.-LA, North** 7 yrs, 5 mos

I would not want merchandise at meetings because I believe it may distract from approved literature, books, etc. However, if we can raise funds at conventions and/or Conferences that help to support this fellowship and carry the message, I would support the idea.

**Lee R.-Delaware Valley, PA** 2 yrs

I do not see it as any different than selling the Big Book.

**Anonymous-LA, North** 2 yrs, 4 mos

I'm not opposed to the sale of merchandise because I know that the money goes to support World Services - and that World Services needs all the help it can get! I do think it's more appropriate, however, for merchandise to be sold at events rather than at meetings.

**Mike LB-Orange County** 10 yrs

I am completely in favor of selling MA merchandise before and after meetings with an announcement during the meeting. Merchandise helps individuals feel a connection with the spirit of fellowship.

**Steve R.-LA, South** 9 mos

I think it is a good idea. It brings in money, helps pass the message and is good for the fellowship.

**Captain Kurt-LA, North** 4 yrs, 6 mos

Meetings are for recovery and to hear the message. At special events, let the host District put out the memorabilia.

**Question: Did you have an "Eskimo" that lead you to the fellowship? How?**

**Trisa A.-Portland** 1 yr

After going to AA meetings and not drinking, but still smokin' for 3 months I had to get honest. Not only with myself, but with others. I told my home group and relinquished my "chips". "Ty" came up after the meeting and game me an MA flyer with a phone number. Ty gave me my 1 year MA chip that I cherish! Since then, I carry literature with me at AA meetings to carry the message.

**Anonymous-LA, North** 2 yrs, 4 mos

Sort of... I use to think the program was pretty "uncool." Then I heard that my high-school sweetheart (whom I thought was very cool) had put together a few years. And he was the only person I knew who smoked pot like I did. In the back of my mind, I figured "If he can do it...". He took me to an AA meeting during the time I

was hitting bottom. I kept smoking for four more months. But that meeting, as well as his involvement in the program, definitely planted a seed.

**Lee R.-New York** 2 yrs

I was taking a course in Drug and Alcohol Addiction. The instructor knew of MA in California. I called the 800 number and found out about the New York meeting. That was my introduction.

**Van W.-LA, North** 23 yrs, 11 mos

I was in recovery - other fellowships. When I first saw a posting for an MA meeting, I thought, "What for !?" Then three people, in three weeks, invited me to the same meeting. That was my "God-call". Mike H., Joellen, and "Captain" Kurt are my MA Eskimos. THAT is "what for !"

# My Gratitude

*Continued from Page 1*

isolated world of my own imagining. By the time I reached high school, I felt truly hopeless. And then I met marijuana. Within a year I was smoking ten joints a day. These were the golden years of my addiction, when I had the most beautiful rushes.

In my twenties I went through tortuous alternations between periods of dryness and utter indulgence, culminating in a painful cocaine habit. Somehow I imagined that the drugs themselves would give me the inspiration I needed to transcend my depression. Instead, drugs brought me to my knees. My therapist used that opportunity to show me that I had a real problem. Fortunately a friend of mine had been in the M.A. program for over a year, and had openly shared with me about it. I asked for his help, and he told me where to go—the 14th Street Workshop! It was a breakthrough. I shared a lot in the beginning, and made a habit of attending meetings frequently. At last I felt loved and accepted.

My recovery was quite painful at first, but has ultimately been very rewarding. I learned to “clean house.” I settled down into a reasonable apartment, after having lived in a string of hovels. I am following a course of complete sobriety, which is an act of lovingness and truthfulness towards myself. This is real change for me. I began to take my health seriously, and started going for annual checkups. The doctors found that I was suffering from an intestinal malabsorption caused by a toxic reaction to gluten. So I changed my diet accordingly (no wheat!), and I now feel a thousand times better than ever before, when I had been not only malnourished, but also wasted all the time!

Today I have so much gratitude for my health and my recovery. There are still a lot of issues that I have not yet resolved, especially in the areas of loneliness and relationships. But I no longer feel fundamentally depressed. My career

is progressing. I have a new sense of self-esteem and a more energetic body. I'm no longer so shy or anxious about dating. I can now say “Que sera sera.” And finally, I have faith in a higher energy which includes me. *R*

# MAWS Financial News

**by: Jonathan R., Trustee/Treasurer**

As of 2/9/97 (PRE-Convention) World Services account balance is hovering around the \$2,000 mark. Large donations from District 6 have been keeping us going along with donations from other districts. (Even non-district's have been donating all they can). With District 5 putting on the convention, and District 7 getting ready for the conference their donations have been (understandably) down.

Our average monthly MCI bill is \$300.to \$500. (this is for our 800-line ).

Our Quality Tel bill is about \$60. (this is for our voice mail) per month.

The office manager is way under paid at \$150. per month.

To get our taxes done for the year cost us about \$800.

We paid \$100. to register our domain name for our web page for one year.

It costs \$200. a year for workman's comp insurance.

Office expenses are roughly \$1000. per year.

We also reimburse people for calling people back off the 800-line.

Not to mention Trustee travel expenses for the conference.

Looking over the last few years, it is obvious that we are growing fast. It is my privilege to serve MA., but looking into the future we might need to pay people to do certain jobs which up until now have been service positions. I am not looking for any money for myself, and if asked I will serve one more year as treasurer. (without pay) But we need to be realistic when looking forward. *R*

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