



MARCH 1999

Volume 9 - No. 3

# A NEW LEAF

A Publication of Marijuana Anonymous

\$12.00 -Year Subscription

## Now It's Only a Bad Dream... BY ERIN O., District 7

I look back on my years of smoking pot as a bad dream. One that, as much as I wanted to, I couldn't wake up from.

My three older sisters are my best friends. I remember the exact day I went from being a bratty little sister to an accepted peer. A couple of them were sitting in the back yard smoking pot with a group of friends. One of the kids expressed alarm that little Erin had come to join them on the lawn. Big Sis said, "It's OK. She's cool." At that moment I really was. This was my first memory of being accepted... and it was around smoking pot.

A few years later, at the age of twelve, I decided it was time for me to officially join the club. I was ready to follow my role models into the world of smoking pot. Sister #1 had turned on #2, and the both of them initiated #3.

They had always said they all wanted to carry on the tradition when it was my turn. But I couldn't wait.

Once I had made the decision, I wanted to start smoking immediately. To my sisters' collective disappointment, I grabbed the first potheads I could find and began my career as a stoner.

Within a couple months, I was buying lids of pot and turning on as many kids as I could find. Within a few I was breaking into my friends' houses and stealing their stash. By the time I was 17, I was dreaming about quitting.

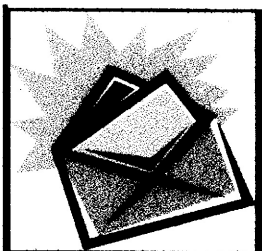
I would often hitchhike in Junior High school, hoping someone would pick me up who had weed. I did this armed with the knowledge that one of my sisters had been raped while hitchhiking. But I pushed that thought out of my mind, thinking only of getting the smoke I so desperately needed to feel OK. I only knew one way to alleviate the emptiness I felt inside. I would do anything to make that emptiness go away, no matter how short-

lived the relief was.

For years I only picked boyfriends who either sold or had ready access to weed. One was a junkie. He would give me a bag of pot every other day. On the off days, I would steal it from him. He pointed out to me that I was just as addicted to pot as he was to heroin. I couldn't deny it. But I couldn't stop either.

During an especially bad fight with another boyfriend, I lost a fingertip to a slamming door. Sister #2 insisted I move in with her. After a couple of weeks of waking up at noon, peeking my head over the covers and smoking roaches while I watched soap operas, she very gently told me she loved me and I didn't have to leave, but she could no longer, in good conscience, smoke pot with me. It hurt her too much to see me that way. It hurt me too much to continue to shame myself in front of her. I left the next day and moved in with a dealer.

(continued on Page 3)

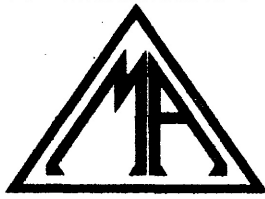


### Subscribe to *A NEW LEAF*!

For the low price of \$12.00 per year, you could have monthly issues of *A NEW LEAF* delivered to your home!

Send a check with your subscription order to:

*A NEW LEAF* P.O. Box 4314 North Hollywood, CA 91617



A NEW LEAF

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.

**Managing Board**

Editors:

Mary Ellen K. and Tom M.  
ANL Distribution Coordinators:  
Robin H. and Debra S.  
LWH Distribution Coordinator:  
Coleman G.

District 1 Bureau Chief: (vacant)  
District 2 Bureau Chief: Don C.  
District 3 Bureau Chief: Jerry  
District 4 Bureau Chief: Mary M.  
District 5 Bureau Chief: Melody  
District 6 Bureau Chief: Sandy B.  
District 7 Bureau Chief: Gary L.  
District 8 Bureau Chief: Rob D.  
District 9 Bureau Chief: Bernie G.  
District 10 Bureau Chief: Bill H.  
District 11 Bureau Chief: Susan B.  
Eastern PA Bureau Chief: Lee R.

**A NEW LEAF** Executive Board:

Chairperson: Loren N.  
Treasurer: Carol Mc.  
Secretary: Ilene M.

Send all articles, inquiries and correspondence to:

**A NEW LEAF**

P.O. Box 4314

North Hollywood, CA 91617

Email: ANuLeafPub@aol.com

Editorial Phone #:  
(415) 664-6917

## THE RETURN OF... THE ROVING REPORTER

*At the recent MA convention in Burbank, several MA members took a minute or two or three to share their experience, strength, and hope with the readers of the New Leaf. Read how they answered the following question: **What is your FAVORITE STEP and WHY?***

**Brian A., District 6, Length of Sobriety: 7 years Step 10** because it helps me to stay on the path of doing God's will. After the day, I take an inventory to keep my side of the street clean. If I did anything to hurt anyone, I make amends immediately. This I do for me so I can keep the joy I have worked for and so I can give it away.

**Teri A., District 7, Length of Sobriety: 6 1/2 years Step 3** is my favorite step. Knowing that God is taking care of my life has freed me up so that I can just be grateful. I don't need to worry about things because God's taking care of them for me.

**Alan L., District 5,6 and 7, Length of Sobriety: 2117 days**

The first step. If I don't take the first step, I wont put down the remote and get off the couch. The longest journey begins with a single step.

**Jodi B., District 6 & 7, Length of Sobriety: 2 years STEP ONE.** Powerless-UNMANAGEABLE.. I can't ever afford to forget how out of control my pot smoking and emotions can get.

**Tammy C., District 5, Length of Sobriety: 3 years** My favorite step is the fourth step. Why? Because I got to write down every one of my resentments and get them out. It was the beginning of not carrying them around any longer. Of course I had to look at my part in the resentment, too. But as a result of the 4th and 5th step I am a much freer person. It feels good to let resentments go!

### **NEW OFFICE MANAGER NEEDED!**

**OUR CURRENT OFFICE MANAGER WILL END HER JOB AFTER THE 1999 MAWS CONFERENCE. IF YOU ARE INTERSTED AND WANT DETAILS, E-MAIL BILL D. WITH INQUIRIES AT: STEP13A@aol.com**

## Now It's Just a Bad Dream (cont'd)

By the time I was 23, my lungs were in such bad shape that I was suffering from severe bronchial spasms. I had to prop myself up with pillows at night to get to sleep. My mind had been telling me to quit for years, but finally, my body was sabotaging me, too.

I tried all the tricks...smoking all my stash at night, swearing I would quit the next day...going to a therapist...even switching to booze. I became more and more depressed and miserable.

Finally, someone in my circle of friends began going to meetings. I saw a ray of hope in that person and asked him to take me to a meeting. I cried all through that first meeting. At the end of it someone handed me a Big Book. I had a few false starts

with the program. For a year I used that book to prop up my sagging bed. The irony of that hits me only now as I write this 12 years later. First it was pillows, then it was the Big Book.

The idea of using God to quit smoking pot was my excuse for not going back to meetings at first. I might be a liar, a thief and a hopeless addict...but I would not be a hypocrite. Finally even that became a reasonable alternative to what I was.

I grabbed the first kind woman who put her hand out to me to be my sponsor. She tried at first to pawn me off to one of her sponsees, but I kept after her. I wanted what she had.

Judith immediately got me into action. I began writ-

ing for 5 minutes a day. She told me that I needed to get all the pain, angst and humiliation out of my head and onto paper. She also convinced me that my own personal God was madly and passionately in love with me. That God would give me not only everything I needed, but everything I wanted as well.

I tried as best I could to follow her example and connected with any and every newcomer I could catch after meetings. I decided to believe her when she said that she couldn't keep me clean, but helping others could and would. She was right. I've now been clean from smoking pot as long as I used. I still dream about it occasionally, but it's only a bad dream. I wake and live a good life.

## \*\*\*\*\* ★ Congratulations to Our Members ★ ★ Celebrating Their Sober Birthdays! ★ \*\*\*\*\*

### District 4

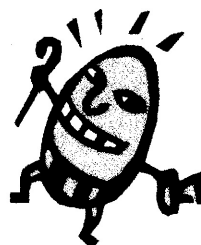
Connie	2/14/98	1 year!
Eric	2/17/98	1 year!
Andrea	2/18/98	1 year!
Erik	2/21/97	2 years
Corina	3/11/98	1 year!

### District 5

Chris	1/5/98	1 year!
"Scrappin" Mike P.	2/14/98	1 year!
Janet R.	3/17/88	11 years
Gary D.	3/19/93	6 years
Becky T.	3/23/92	7 years
Mike C. "Ex-Lover"	3/25/93	6 years
Steve M.	3/27/89	10 years
Diana N.	3/28/95	4 years

### District 6

Deirdre G.	3/1/95	4 years
Susan S.	3/5/95	4 years
Alan L.	3/9/93	6 years
Karie M.	3/15/90	9 years
Dean H.	3/19/95	4 years



Keith T.	3/27/95	4 years
Chris E.	3/28/93	6 years

### District 7

Terry R.	12/11/96	2 years
Dave S.	1/1/95	4 years
Jodi B.	2/6/97	2 years
Debra C.		4 years
Dennis		4 years
Rocky		17 years

### District 8

Stephen W.		1 year!
Nick R.	2/24/97	2 years
Mike R.	7/24/97	18 months
Suzanne B.	3/3/97	2 years

### District 11

Mike D.	12/15/97	1 year!
Dan	1/27/97	2 years
Allen R.	2/1/98	1 year!
Rosie M.	2/4/98	1 year!

### CYBERSPACE!!

Greg H.	3/23/94	5 years
---------	---------	---------

# Greetings from the MA Year 2000 Convention Committee!

By any standards of measurement, the 1999 MA Convention was a huge success. Attendance, fellowship, sobriety consciousness and celebration, and fund-raising all reached new heights. Please join us in extending the thanks of our entire membership to the Burbank, CA District for a job well done.

As we look ahead to the start of the new "Millenium of Hope," we are excited by the strength and vitality of our program. Increased meeting attendance and community consciousness signals a bright future for our singleness of purpose. An important element in the continued growth of our program is ability to work together to achieve our common purpose. This spiritual "oneness" transcends geographical separation.

Although still a year away, the Y2K MA Convention Committee has been meeting regularly over the past few months to work on the theme, site selection, format & agenda, as well as fund raising for our first convention of the new millenium next January. We are now ready to reach out to MA as a whole to help participate in the shaping and planning for the success of our annual get-together.

If you attended the '99 Convention, we hope you'll take a few moments to share your impressions of it with us. What was particularly appealing to you? What changes could be made to increase attendance and enjoyment? Any additional suggestions for fund-raisers throughout the year or at the convention to increase the contribution to MAWS? If you did not attend, perhaps you have been to other conventions and have some ideas we could incorporate into our format. We look forward to hearing your input.

As I'm sure you are well aware, the spirit of the seventh tradition was alive and well at the Burbank event. We hope to continue in that tradition with several "Fun(d) Raisers" throughout the year in our district(s) and hope that you will join us in the effort. Our focus is

to have fun while making a contribution. One on-going event we have started doing is to collect pennies and have penny jars at all our meetings. This was a very successful program for Burbank this past year and we would like to expand this effort to all the districts throughout 1999. We are "hopeful" you can help get this effort going in your district as well. We have made up some collection jars with labels which we can send to you upon request and have

some suggestions to make the counting go much easier. We are calling the program "Pennies From Heaven." We look forward to seeing you in January and working with you throughout the year to continue the success of the annual MA World Convention.

Send Comments, Questions and Suggestions to:

**Kevin G.: MA Year 2000  
Convention Committee Chair  
2374 Fatjo Pl. Santa Clara, CA  
95050; (408) 249-9865.**

## MA Worldwide...

San Francisco (District 1) P.O. Box 460024 San Francisco, CA 94146 (415) 522-7373	L.A. County, North (District 6) P.O. Box 2433 Van Nuys, CA 91404 (818) 759-9194	L.A. County, East (District 10) P.O. Box 94400 Pasadena, CA 91109 (626) 583-9582
East Bay (District 2) (510) 287-8873	L.A. County, South (District 7) P.O. Box 3012 Culver City, CA 90231 (213) 964-2370	Portland, Oregon (District 11) P.O. Box 14125 Portland, OR 97293 (503) 221-7007
South Bay (District 3) P.O. Box 111341 Campbell, CA 95011 (408) 450-0796	New York (District 8) P.O. Box 1244 Cooper Station New York, New York 10276 (212) 459-4423	Eastern Pennsylvania Chapter P.O. Box 194 Sadsbury, PA 19369 (610) 622-9243
Seattle (District 4) P.O. Box 1509 539 Queen Anne Ave.N BOX 1509 Seattle, WA 98109 (206) 548-9034	SANTA CRUZ (DISTRICT 9) P.O. Box 3196 Santa Cruz, CA 95063 (408) 427-4088	New Zealand MA Service Centre P.O. Box 74-386 Newmarket Auckland 3, New Zealand (09) 846-6822
Orange County (District 5) 358 S. Main #215 Orange, CA 92668 (714) 999-9409		



### World Service Office

P.O. Box 2912, Van Nuys, CA 91404 ♦ (800) 766-6779

<http://www.marijuana-anonymous.org>

e-mail: [info@marijuana-anonymous.org](mailto:info@marijuana-anonymous.org)