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A NEW LEAF

A Publication of Marijuana Anonymous

Pot Stopped Working

Mary S. District 4

I started smoking pot when I was fourteen. I couldn't wait to try it. I had tried it once when I was thirteen, but nothing happened. I had a sixteen year old boyfriend at the time named Sam who I told this story to and he said: "I'll get you high".

We went to an abandoned bus shelter and Sam instructed me on how to take a drag and hold a hit, which I did. The stuff was called "creeper" and, at the time, I didn't know what that meant. I thought it was not meant for me to get high, as nothing was happening. Then it happened, It was as if the unused bus shelter had suddenly become an operating bus stop and the bus had just pulled in. I felt like I was lifted up and moved off along with the imaginary bus although I hadn't moved an inch. I was hooked.

I smoked to change the way I felt. I smoked to be liked. I smoked to escape. It worked. I felt strong and in control. I was able to dream up great things, and interpret the songs I heard on the radio stations. I was the coolest chick in school. I scored for everyone. I got everyone high. I was able to avoid my parents whether I was in the room or twenty miles away. They never suspected a thing. I never got in trouble. My grades sucked but I didn't care. I also didn't

care about how my smoking was affecting my parents. All I cared about was using their money as long as I could to support my habit.

When I was sixteen my boyfriend Sam dumped me. I was inconsolable. I wanted to die. Marijuana was my only friend. I began the serious side to my addiction. I smoked every day all day. I smoked reefer before school, during school, in study hall and after school. I had to have pot to have fun. If I didn't have any, I would spend the entire day or night looking for it. I jumped in cars with guys to get high. It was a prerequisite of having my friendship, or getting a date. My goal at this time was to be a true stoner. I worked very diligently at this pursuit.

I did not want to go to college. I did not want to do anything except get high. Everyone at school was planning what they would do after graduation. Not me. I only planned to party. I literally woke up the day after graduation and realized I had to have a plan. I had went to Kent State University for a weekend party once and was impressed by all the drugs and drinking. That was the place for me.

I was accepted in the Winter quarter of 1982 and began a

five year college career which included lots more drinking, LSD, Quaaludes, and of course marijuana. I changed degrees several times, before deciding to become an actor. My profs all got stoned and drank, but the hard drugs fell away. I felt I was making some progress by only smoking pot; besides it allowed me to be creative, or so I thought. I graduated in December of 1986, but stayed for almost two years because, again, I didn't plan to do anything else. I moved to Seattle in 1988 and pursued an acting career and smoking pot. I continued smoking, buying, begging, stealing, and lying to get high and stay high. I did some theatre but planned shows and auditions around getting wasted. In 1992 I met and married my now ex, and together we continued the sweet stoned dream. The dream was not so sweet. My ex was an alcoholic, who was abusive and mean. I tried everything I could to make it work. The two of us were smoking about \$600 month and were heavily in debt.



Share Your Recovery Discovery!! Write an article for *A NEW LEAF* about finding Marijuana Anonymous!!

Please send all articles 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.

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Pot stopped working (cont'd)

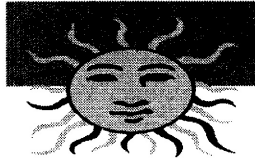
and were heavily in debt. I smoked to forget how unhappy I was. I smoked to escape from my husband. I smoked to feel better about my non-existent acting career. I was unable to quit smoking pot for very long, because then I could see all the realities. I quit drinking in July 1993 but held on to my stash. It was the only thing I had left, During the five years on my marriage I quit smoking for small periods of time but never intended it to be for very long. We smoked alone together or together alone. No one visited our house. Phone calls were screened, curtains were drawn. I was isolated in the nightmare of a bad marriage and pot was my only escape.

In 1996 my job instituted a random drug policy. I considered quitting the job but it was great and paid well so I investigated natural detox potions and tried to cut down. I was successful at quitting for short amounts of time, but always ended up smoking again. It was at this time that I began to consider myself addicted to marijuana.

I began to think of the reasons I had started smoking. I smoked to change the way I felt. I used to be that pot made me feel great, uplifted me and made everything OK. Somewhere along the way I stopped feeling so great. I was depressed all the time, whether I was high or not. The truth is I hadn't really felt anything, although I was in denial about this. I smoked pot to be liked. It used to be that I was everybody's friend. People all wanted me around because I was funny and did crazy things (I was an entertainer after all). Somewhere along the way I became isolated from my friends. I did not do many social things except get high and watch TV. My friends all faded away, or were pushed away, until I had no friends left. Yet I continued to smoke. I smoked pot to escape. It used to be that I'd go up in my room and get baked and come downstairs and be able to deal with my family better. I could deal with everything better. If there was a problem, I'd just get high and it would go away. Somewhere along the line the problems got bigger and I realized that they were not going away but coming back even bigger. The more I tried to escape, the more I had to escape from. But I could not stop smoking pot.

I called MA and wrote down the meeting times and days, I waited. New Years Eve 1997 I literally smoked until the clock struck midnight. I put down the bong and went to MA the next day. At the time of this writing I am working on seven months sober. I do not have all the answers. But I am taking a long hard look at my addiction and have realized that I am powerless over Marijuana. Because I had a clear head I was able to put an end to a long painful relationship with my ex by filing for divorce. I wish him well and am moving on. I'm working on the steps and will be taking a Big Book workshop. I made amends to my parents and told them the truth about my addiction. I am lucky, they still love me. I have a sponsor who is wonderful and a whole new group of friends whom I love more than any of the people I spend endless wasted hours huddled over a pipe with. I have gotten a lot of love, support and tenderness from MA. I know that I don't have to ever smoke pot again.

The best thing is that I found I am able to get all the things I longed for when I began getting stoned without using pot. I know how to change the way I feel, I am liked and I can escape without pot. I am learning everyday thanks to MA.



Convention News!!!

The District 6 Convention Committee has assembled 19 copies of ANL in review Volume 2. This book is a wonderful collector's item and contains every issue of ANL from January 1994 to September 1998. ANL in review Volume 1 came out in October 1993 and it contained every issue of ANL from its beginning in February 1991 to October 1993. This volume sold like hotcakes.

The book was put together as part of a fundraiser for the 1999 Convention. If you are interested in ordering a copy of ANL in review 2, please e-mail Burbank99@aol.com. The cost of the book is \$10, which includes shipping! Get 'em while they last!

REGISTRATION FOR CONVENTION 1999 IS NOW OPEN. REGISTER EARLY BY MAIL TO GET THE BEST PACKAGE RATE!

MA Worldwide...

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P.O. Box 460024
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Portland, OR 97293
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(510) 287-8873

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e-mail: info@marijuana-anonymous.org

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

District 2

Jon P.	9/9/97	1 year
Rick M.	9/11/98	7 years
Mariska.	9/30/87	11 years

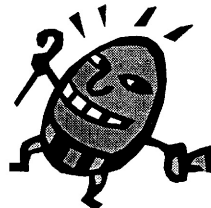


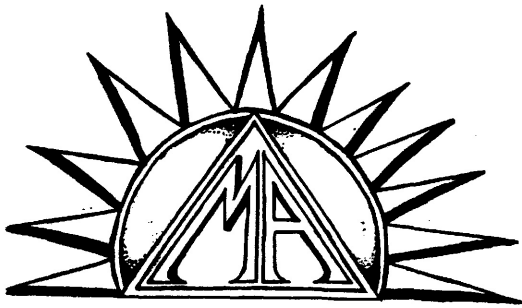
District 6

Debra R.	10/9/97	1 year
Ilene M.	10/20/94	4 years
Kathy B.	10/21/86	12 years

District 5

Jason	10/29/93	5 years
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**The 5th Annual
Marijuana Anonymous Convention
"Stepping Into The Light"
January 15-16-17, 1999
Burbank, California**

Tentative Agenda

(Specific starting times subject to change)

Friday January 15
Registration opens-4pm
Dinner on your own
Opening meeting-7pm
Meet and Greet Event-9pm
Late Night meeting-11pm

Saturday January 16
Early meeting-7am
Breakfast-8:30am
Workshops and Meetings
Banquet Dinner-6pm
Speaker meeting-7:30pm
Surprise entertainment-8:30pm
Dance-10pm
Late Night meeting-11pm

Sunday January 17
Early meeting-7am
Breakfast-8:30am
Workshops and Meetings
Closing Ceremonies-11:30am
Raffle

Hotel Registration

(Hotel is not included in registration costs-you must book your room separately)

Burbank Airport Hilton 2500 Hollywood Way, Burbank, California (800) HILTONS (Hotel is across the street from Burbank Airport)

Room Rates: \$89.00 per night plus tax-1 to 2 people per room. Add \$10.00 per night for each additional person up to 4 people per room.
(\$109 per night plus tax for 4 people in a room)

Reservations must be made by December 15, 1998 to guarantee this rate.

You must say that you are with the MA Convention to receive this rate.

(You may stay Sunday night at the Convention rate if you wish!)

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Convention Registration Order Form

Full Packages	Cost	# of tickets	Total
Before December 15-All events and food	\$70	_____	\$ _____
After December 15-All events and food	\$80	_____	\$ _____
At the Door-All events and food	\$90	_____	\$ _____
Individual Events			
Friday-Opening meeting and Meet & Greet Event	FREE	_____	
Saturday-Workshops, Banquet, Speaker Meeting, Entertainment and Dance	\$50	_____	\$ _____
Saturday-Workshops, Speaker Meeting, Entertainment and Dance (NO FOOD)	\$15	_____	\$ _____
Saturday-Speaker Meeting, Entertainment and Dance Only (NO WORKSHOPS OR FOOD)	\$10	_____	\$ _____
Sunday-Workshops and Closing Ceremonies (NO FOOD)	FREE	_____	

Send order form and check for total amount payable to:

Total Registration Cost \$ _____

MA Convention Fund

P.O. Box 2912

Van Nuys, Ca 91404

Name (s) _____ Phone _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

E mail address (if applicable) _____

(Your anonymity will be protected on all materials)

Banquet Dinner Choice: Chicken (quantity) _____ Vegetarian Lasagne (quantity) _____

Will you need shuttle service from Burbank Airport? _____