



A NEW LEAF

A PUBLICATION OF MARIJUANA ANONYMOUS

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Alert! The 2002 Convention in Seattle is coming! For information on the upcoming event, please, visit the Convention website at www.seattlema.org!

M.A. in London

Michael

I'm Michael and I'm a marijuana addict. I have been clean for over 6 years and 8 months this time around, through attending another (non-chemical specific) fellowship, which I first started attending in 1991 and for the last three years, thankfully also through MA. Coming to MA was like a coming home for me. Personal use and possession of marijuana was effectively decriminalized in a part of London not far away from me last July. When this experiment (to be extended to the rest of the country next April) was announced in the press, thanks to my recovery, I only spent about a week thinking occasionally about using again as an option, and sharing about it. A lot of my abstinence from marijuana between 1970 and 1988 was for professional reasons - risking disbarment if I was caught using. My dream for years was to be able to use without these risks or to earn enough money to retire and spend the rest of my life stoned.

On the Monday after my (now second ex) wife moved in with me in 1989 she said she could not live with me while my staff were smoking dope (marijuana) or "spliff" as it is quaintly referred to here. I saw nothing abnormal about it being smoked in my law office after hours, but asked them to stop (because of her being tempted to use) and

stopped myself for two years.

In April 1991 I went with her to attend a convention of another fellowship. After hearing two speakers from America realized I was an addict, much to her embarrassment. She told me not to pick up a book on the stage - she didn't want everyone to know she was about to drop a baby with a newcomer. But I started to attend meetings anyway shortly afterwards. I have spent 9 out of the last 10 years clean but did not stay clean relapsing three times.

I grew up in New York City and only encountered dope once as a teenager. One weird friend turned me on when I was 18 but my parents found out and forbade me from seeing him. I didn't encounter it again until I went to a summer session at UCLA in 1966. I was cured of whatever drinking problems I had... "why drink and drive when you can fly?", as I saw on a T shirt recently but alcohol really never did it for me anyway. I did acid for my 21st birthday in January 1967.

Within ten weeks of graduating two months later, I was in a private mental hospital attached to Harvard medical school, eventually leaving against medical advice after 18 months. The first hospital wanted to give me ECT. This one was very psychoanalytically oriented and I rambled for hours to psychoanalysts. They didn't even mind my

smoking dope; marijuana was not considered addictive then. I finished my degree, married an English woman, "settled down" and studied law here. I also intuitively realized that I could not study or practice law stoned. I found a "safe connection" in my secretary about a year before I met my second wife. My career kept my using "moderate".

Although I tried to work a program in the other fellowship in 1991, I could find no one who could sufficiently identify with my "functional" marijuana use to sponsor me. I had a profession and was earning more money than most people dream of. All my relapses were with alcohol initially, but quickly led back to dope. When we split up in March

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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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M.A. in London

continued

1995 I was still using and did the opposite. I came back IN to recovery rather than going OUT.

Coming up to a year clean my unmanageability caught up with me and I was suspended from practice as a lawyer. Coming up to two years clean I was diagnosed with Non-focusing Attention Deficit Disorder (and read that marijuana is the worst drug to use with ADD because it makes you think you are more focused when you are actually wasted), was made bankrupt, divorced, was made homeless and lived in a single room for a year having my children (then 4 and 6) every weekend. MA first came to London in November 1998. There were a few of us who identified as mainly marijuana addicts in the other fellowship, but we didn't really associate with each other much. About three of us still attending MA now had then been around the other fellowship for some time. Others were relatively new. A year before I met someone in a coffee shop after a meeting. We had been chatting for a few minutes before I realized she hadn't been to the meeting, but like me she had attended the other fellowship around childhood issues. She had met Timothy Leary in California. I suggested she might need to look at her dope smoking and gave her a meeting list. About a year later she started attending the other fellowship. She was one of the newer original members of MA. Another was someone struggling to get clean in July 1998 with his dope dealer living next door. Like me he was functional while using and travels to LA frequently. I'm not sure who first got the information about MA but word got around to us marijuana addicts in the other fellowship that a meeting was going to be held in Chelsea, the adjoining district to where the MA meeting is now in

Nottinghill Gate. It quickly moved to its present venue at the Tabernacle and a second meeting was started. There have never been more than about 15 members. Initially there was a certain novelty value to MA; most of the initial members had experience in other fellowships and other drugs of choice. Of those of us who have stuck around after three years, all of us had marijuana as their "primary" drug of choice. There are usually more newcomers coming in now than those with time in other fellowships and it is a joy to watch those who stay get clean, get the MA program and pass it on. I have only recently checked out the MA website. Although I have had an email address for the past year, I have only recently gotten a computer with sufficient capacity to use the Internet (and unlimited access for a flat rate) and checked out the MA website. Before that I had to pay an hourly rate at internet cafes and only used it sparingly, rather than "surfing". Life With Hope was very expensive to ship over here and usually not in stock at the meetings for sale to newcomers. (this problem has now been solved)

I had assumed there were a large number of meetings on the West coast, where dope smoking was more endemic in LA in 1966 than it is here now. I had assumed that we were doing something "wrong" in having so few members and only the same number of meetings now after three years as we had after a few weeks. I was surprised to find only a relatively small number of meetings there also and how much shorter the stories on the website were than those in the text of my other fel-

M.A. in London *continued*

lowship. I still haven't gotten to any online MA meetings. I have my children on Sundays and pick them up at school in the afternoon until my ex finishes work so I miss the Tuesday meeting; the others are in the middle of the night when I am asleep. But since coming online I have been in correspondence with other MA members in other countries by email who have encountered the same problems as I have in identifying in my other fellowship. I have now recently typed out the MA Step One numbered a sentence at a time and have read it with newcomers and emailed it all over the world. With my ADD, I need to read like this to really take in "internally". I think that if we don't all have true ADD, which is genetic and must manifest by age 7, we all have dopamine induced ADD like symptoms of short attention span which take many years to dissipate. Perhaps this is why the MA stories are so short: we don't take that much in! Focusing on the individual numbered sentences of Step One in MA reading with other members has helped me understand how very special the MA Step One is for us. I am now working on typing out the other steps from LWH so I can become as familiar with the MA literature as I am with that of the

concluded on last page

FOR THE MEMBERSHIP:

Information pertains to service work to serve the facilitation of the fellowship

The following is an excerpt from

MAWS ~ Marijuana Anonymous World Service Trustee Meeting Minutes Monday May 28, 2001

TRUSTEE JOB ASSIGNMENTS

Dana: Treasurer

Lisa: Secretary/800 Line

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Alan: Policies & Procedures

Ron: H&I / PI

Bean: Webmaster

Brandon: President

Eric R.: Online Services

Erik J.: New Meeting Outreach

Michael V.: Listserve Administrator

Erik J.: 800 Line Coordinator

(Ed. note; this is new info; changed)

Previous P&P: James S.

Previous HIPI: Ilene M.

Previous 800: Lisa T.

Previous Online: John Mc C.

Previous NMO: Alan B. and Maria S.

Dates of this year's Trustee meetings:

Aug 25 at 10am Pacific time

Dec 1 at 10am Pacific time

Sunday Feb 17 at 3pm (at Convention)

Ed. note: PLEASE CONTACT YOUR DISTRICT DELEGATE FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION
OUR MANY THANKS TO THOSE THAT SERVE MAWS

NEW ANLP PRICING MATRIX

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Service Manual \$10.00

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A New Leaf

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M.A. in London

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other fellowship to make the message I pass on as close to the MA Program as it can be, rather than my idea of the program.

I now have somewhere else to send or take other marijuana addicts, whether I meet them in meetings of the other fellowship or in the outside world. Most of my using former staff members are still using. All are earning much more than I receive from my grant and generous UK social security benefits. Some are earning vastly more but struggling and unable to ask for help. I call them from time to time offering to take them to a meeting, but they are too "busy" earning money, as I was in the first six years. I now have something more to offer them beyond my knowledge of the other fellowship: the MA Program. ***"True spiritual principles are never in conflict; they compliment each other."***

MA WORLDWIDE

For Land and Online Meeting Schedules Go To: <http://www.marijuana-anonymous.org>

email: office@marijuana-anonymous.org

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800-766-6779

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San Francisco, CA
94146-0025
415.522.7373

East Bay (District 2)

PO Box 8354
Berkeley, CA 94707
510.287.8873

South Bay (District 3)

408.450.0796

Seattle (District 4)

POB # 17232
Seattle, WA 98107-1023
206.548.9034

Orange County (District 5) (Includes San Diego)

PMB #215
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Orange, CA 92868-3834
714.999.9409
619.685.2808

LA County No. (District 6)

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Van Nuys, CA 91404
818.759.9194

LA County So. (District 7)

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Culver City, CA 90231
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New York (District 8)

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Santa Cruz (District 9)

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649.846.6822

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

District 2

John L.	12/15/89	12 Years
Allen	12/31/91	10 Years
Becky D.	12/22/92	9 Years
Matt C.	12/21/94	7 Years
Jay C.	12/23/94	7 Years

District 3

Pat Mc.	12/29/89	12 Years
Dave N.	12/28/93	8 Years
Mike H.	12/9/96	5 Years
Annette G.	12/28/97	4 Years

District 4

Mike S.	11/11/2000	1 Year!
Erika S.	11/22/00	1 Year!
Cheyney	12/24/00	1 Year!

District 5

Gary R.	12/20/90	11 Years
Lisa S.	12/7/93	8 Years
Mike U.	12/11/99	2 Years
Tim L.	12/27/99	2 Years

District 6

Gerald F.	11/12/90	11 Years
Terri R.	11/18/90	11 Years
Greg S.	11/20/94	7 Years
Michael P.	11/9/94	7 Years
Bill B.	11/9/96	5 Years
Robin T.	11/16/97	4 Years
Kris P.	11/22/98	3 Years
Michelle E.	11/30/98	3 Years
John G.	12/25/91	10 Years
Mike H.	12/7/92	9 Years
Stanton O.	12/2/97	4 Years
William G.	12/24/97	4 Years
Richard H.	12/6/98	3 Years

District 7

John S.	11/18/92	9 Years
Steve S.	11/25/99	2 Years
Avi	12/8/90	11 Years
Renelde	12/31/92	9 Years
Josh	12/23/93	8 Years
Jeff M.	12/6/96	5 Years
Mike V.	12/13/96	5 Years

District 7 (cont'd)

Beljit	12/19/98	3 Years
Steve S.	12/3/99	2 Years
Manny	12/6/99	2 Years
Audrey	12/17/99	2 Years
David L.	12/21/99	2 Years
Mark	12/31/99	2 Years

District 8

Carol P.	11/13/90	11 Years
John M.	12/14/94	7 Years

District 10

Bobby H.	9/29/95	6 Years
Jorge	9/18/99	2 Years
Max	10/4/00	1 Year!
Richard G.	10/6/00	1 Year!

Idaho

Mandy D.	12/??/97	4 Years
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Tennessee

Regis M.	11/2/00	1 Year!
Ben E.	11/20/00	1 Year!

Celebrating 277 Years of Sobriety in This Issue!