



A NEW LEAF

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA MA NEWSLETTER
P.O. BOX 2433
VAN NUYS, CA 91404

JUNE 1993
Editors: PATRICIA G./LOREN N.
PHONE (818)980-0438/FAX (213)258-5622

THE NAKED TRUTH

The hospital floor was cold against my feet. I was being strip-searched for anything I could use to harm myself or others. My life had truly become unmanageable, and that night, as I was sobbing uncontrollably because I was completely without hope and wanted to die, I took the first step. I had been using for twenty-two years and it was no longer working. The second step followed quickly -- first I had to "come to" before I could "come to believe". It was a relief to no longer rely upon my own devices to run the show.

The third step asked me to turn my life and my will over to the care of God. Well, I would've turned my life and will over to Godzilla if I thought it was going to make me feel better and bring me some serenity. I'm currently taking the fourth step. If therapy is the art of discovering the obvious, then the fourth step, I believe, is similar. I'm sure a pattern of behavior will emerge and I will be heard to say, "why didn't I ever realize this before?" We, as addicts, have the ability to ignore what is blatantly apparent in the face of overwhelming evidence. Denial. Or as I've heard it said: Doesn't Even Notice It's A Lie.

Some people might not understand the gratitude I feel for my disease kicking my ass and landing me in the hospital. But, that's exactly what I feel. I'm grateful for the opportunity to learn a program for living, a method of dealing with life rather than anesthetizing myself and watching it pass me by. Because, truth be told, I didn't have a drug problem, I had a living problem.

If I ever forget the feeling of the hospital floor and the insanity that preceded it. If I romance the past instead of honestly assessing it, then I run the risk of returning to my misery. No thanks.

Mike H.



Happy Birthday!!

GREG R.	MAY 1	2 YEARS
JUDY C.	MAY 15	5 YEARS
JUAN W.	MAY ?	2 YEARS
SEAN	JUNE 1	2 YEARS
MIKKI K.	JUNE 15	2 YEARS
DARNELL B.	JUNE 20	3 YEARS
CAROL M.	JUNE 23	5 YEARS
GARY	JUNE 23	1 YEAR

NOTE:

If you're having an M.A. birthday and would like to be listed here, please contact one of the New Leaf Co-Editors.

A NEW LEAF PRAYER

*GOD, grant us knowledge
that we may write according to Your will.
Instill in us a sense of Your purpose
Your power, Your love, Your way of life.
Grant us a bond of selflessness,
that this may truly be Your work not ours,
so that no addict, anywhere,
need die from the horrors of addiction.*

CONGRATULATIONS !

To District 5 for doing a wonderful job hosting the World Conference.

Thank You.

A NEW LEAF PURPOSE



The purpose of "A NEW LEAF" is to carry the message of recovery from marijuana addiction. It is through the written experiences of recovering marijuana addicts and their stories that we can find experience, strength and hope. Articles submitted should reflect recovery, unity, and service.

**DISTRICT 5
INTERGROUP**

2nd Thursday of Month, 7:30 pm
REA Community Center, Room 640
661 Hamilton, Costa Mesa

**DISTRICT 6
GSO MEETING**

1st Thursday of Month, 7:30 pm
9919 La Tuna Canyon Road
Sun Valley

**DISTRICT 7
GSR MEETING**

2nd Wednesday of Month, 7:30 pm
Call Peri A. for Information
(310) 823-3446

QUOTE OF THE MONTH



*If you can not change the situation,
than try changing your attitude.*



THE ROVING REPORTER

A COLLECTION OF VIEWS FROM AROUND THE FELLOWSHIP.

This Month's question: Why is M.A. Unity important?

BECKI B. (San Jose) 8 mos.
My sobriety depends on it. It's important for me to hear and feel other people's struggles so I can connect with them, and take it back with me, and learn from it. What would we do without each others support and understanding?

RICHARD A. (San Jose) 3.5 yrs.
Unity. It is one addict helping another. That is why it works. It is one side of the triangle. Service, Unity, Recovery. Without it, where would any of us be? Unity gives us the strength to continue "one day at a time".

KATHY C. (Los Angeles) 6.5 yrs.
It works. . . we are what we are because of it. Unity is one of three basic ingredients we have and need in order to exist.

P.J. (Santa Cruz) 6 yrs.
Because it works all the time with unity. We can't do this program without all of us working this M.A. program. Showing up, and being of service is unity!

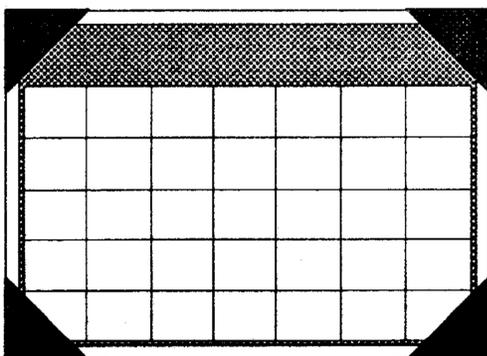
DAVID D. (Seattle) 4.5 yrs.
This is a "we program", not a "me program". By ourselves we are nothing but addicts. Together we are a fellowship in recovery.

BOB E. (San Jose) 5 yrs.
So we can know of all meetings everywhere, and I can find them when I'm there.

JOANNE A. (San Francisco) 3 yrs.
It allows me a wide variety of mirrors to learn about myself through. It's fulfilling and it teaches me valuable social skills. Unity allows us to be strong enough to spread the message which is our primary purpose. It allows stability, which is something I never had.

VIBEKE (Oakland) 2 yrs.
People used weed in order to feel a part of. Now these same people can be a part of something greater than themselves that doesn't involve self-destruction. We set aside personalities for unity.

UPCOMING MARIJUANA ANONYMOUS EVENTS



**SPEAKER MEETING AND DANCE
23590 PARK BELMONTE, CALABASAS**

**JUNE 5TH, 8:00PM
\$5.00 DONATION**

**BEACH PARTY - HUNTINGTON BEACH
BROOKHURST AND PCH
LOOK FOR THE PIRATE FLAG**

**JUNE 12TH
10:00AM - 10:00PM**

**SOBER CAMPOUT
LEO CARILLO STATE BEACH**

**JULY 9TH - 11TH
SOLD OUT**

ANOTHER GRATEFUL ADDICT

Learning in this program is sometimes a slow difficult process for me. My Higher Power knows when I learn lessons too quickly and easily, I tend to take those lessons for granted. The feeling of gratitude came to me slowly. After almost four years in this program, when I hear some identify as a grateful addict I can relate to it. Today I feel grateful for my Higher Power, my sponsors (past and present), my friends and my acquaintances in the program. I even feel grateful for being an addict.

Gratitude helps to counteract a problem common to many of us in the program: ego and self-will. Chuck C. once wrote, "I am totally convinced that the only roadblock between me and you, and me and my God is the human ego." Ego and pride kept me from asking for and accepting help from others. I always thought I could make it on my own. I did not want or need help from anyone. Keeping up a good front when I felt scared, lonely, and less than, was my way of surviving in this world.

The Twelve Steps teach me a better, more satisfying way to live. The program tells me I do not have to struggle through life's problems alone. When I lose my direction, when I am angry, lonely, and confused I seek out someone in the program to share what is going on inside of me. I am more accepting of unconditional love and support. More and more, ego is replaced with gratitude. Gratitude comes from learning more about myself and knowing who I am. Gratitude is doing my 9th Step and realizing the promises coming true in my life. It changes those old feelings of loneliness and self-pity. Gratitude reminds me God is doing for me what I could not do for my self, and today I am not alone.

Albert J.

Of youthful days on Golden Heights,
When dreams would soar far out of sight;
Through streams of fields with endless shape,
My heart was fond of pure escape.

My careless thoughts flew like the breeze,
Limitless life of ever ease.
What more a child should want or need;
Why should a soul be made to bleed?

These thoughts I now begin to fear,
Analysis leaves things unclear.
Blue skies now cloud and dim my view,
And leave this earth without a hue.

This fog surrounds my every move,
My self-control is hard to prove.
Dense thickets lead me deeper still,
To where I know there is no will.

A way back home I hope to find
To have a solid place of mind,
That for granted once was taken,
Before my God I had forsaken.

I sense He'll take me back again,
When I'm ready to begin
A deeper faith and love of self;
And know I never lost His help.

Chris M.

MA GOLFERS TRUDGE THE LINKS AT VAN NUYS

Members of Marijuana Anonymous were busy practicing their golf swings as well as the principles of the program when the MA Spring Classic Golf tournament got underway at Van Nuys Golf Course on Saturday, May 1.

Trudging the links of happy (and sometimes frustrating) destiny were 18 golfers, who came together for the second time in what MA oldtimers hope will be a continuing tradition.

While everyone involved enjoyed the opportunity to get to know one another better in fellowship (the foursomes were chosen by random drawing, a.k.a. a higher power), this tournament, like the first, came down to a suspenseful sudden-death chip-off.

Paul and John G. both finished the par-54 course at five over with 59, forcing the chip-off. John G. was first up and placed a 30-foot chip two feet from the pin — placing the pressure on Paul to make a near-perfect shot to take the trophy. Paul's shot was good, but landed three feet out, narrowly giving John the win.

"It was pure luck," John said after the trophy presentation ceremony. "I feel amazed. When I was playing, I kept asking God to remove the fear."

Playing in the same foursome, both Paul and John were neck and neck throughout the tournament, and on the back nine, the competition turned serious. Coming out of the 17th, Paul held a one-stroke lead and both players hit the 18th green on their tee shots. Paul then had an opportunity to take the win, but he missed his first two putts and had to settle for a bogey (one over par) while John made par to force the tie-breaker.

George B. was third (he has placed in the money in both MA tournaments) and finished at 10 over with 64. Rourke finished fourth with 66 and Rob M. was fifth with 67. Steve G., the reigning champion of MA's Winter Classic, finished in a tie for 6th with Loren, as both players shot 71.

In other highlights, only two players shot birdies (one under par); Paul on the 114-yard 14th and Chris M. on the 117-yard 10th; Rob M. moved up into fifth after shooting par on the last five holes; four players tied with 79 and one had 80, and Bonnie led the women with a respectable 90.

The tournament was organized by Rob M. and Steve G., and a total of nearly 30 years of recovery was represented along with four newcomers, who also joined in the fun.

The top 12 on the leader board:

1. John G.	59	6. Loren	71
2. Paul	59	8. Brad	72
3. George B.	64	9. Tommaso	79
4. Rourke	66	9. Don	79
5. Rob M.	67	9. Chris M.	79
6. Steve G.	71	9. Grady	79

Look for details in *The New Leaf* on MA District 6's next golf tournament, which is planned for late summer or early autumn.

Brian K.

The articles contained in the New Leaf are the opinions of the writers of the articles and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of MA as a whole.



Southern California Marijuana Anonymous Schedule of Meetings

Updated 6-1-93



SUNDAY

- 10:00 AM Redondo Beach
Participation
2000 Artesia Blvd., at Green St.
(David Hayward Comm. Center)
- 11:00 Chatsworth
Men's Stag
(meets 2nd & 4th Sunday only)
9861 Andora (The Eagle's Nest)
Fireside Chat & Brunch
- 5:30 PM Glendale
Discussion
225-D N. Maryland Ave., Upstairs
(PositiveDirections Activity Ctr)

MONDAY

- 7:30 PM Orange H/A
Participation
1200 W. Palmyra
(Sister Elizabeth Building)
- 7:30 PM Sun Valley
Tradition Study
(ONLY Meets 2nd Monday of Month)
9919 La Tuna Canyon Boulevard
- 8:00 PM North Hollywood (NEW LOCATION)
Participation - Newcomers
11960 Victory Blvd.
(Trinity Pres. Church)
- 8:30 PM West Hollywood
"Rastaman Vibrations"
8939½ Santa Monica Bl., Upstairs
(W. Hollywood Drug & Alcohol Ctr)

TUESDAY

- 7:45 PM Orange H/A
"Roach Motel" (NEW TIME)
As Bill See's It
401 S. Tustin Ave., Conf. Rm.
(Orange County Comm. Hospital)
- 8:00 PM Mar Vista
Participation
3590 Grandview Boulevard
(2blk N. Venice-1blk E. Centinela)
(St. Bede's Episcopal Church)
- 8:00 PM Tarzana
Participation (NEW LOCATION)
19616 Ventura Blvd.
(Above Corbin Bowl)

WEDNESDAY

- 7:00 PM Lancaster H/A
Step Study/Participation
44743 Yucca Avenue
(Old Skating Rink)
- 7:00 PM Pasadena
2900 East Del Mar Boulevard
(Las Encinas Hospital)
- 7:30 PM Culver City
Beginner's Meeting
3853 Dunn Drive
(1blk E. Clarington-N. Washington)
(Cornerstone House)
- 8:00 PM Costa Mesa H/A
A.A. Big Book Study
661 Hamilton, Room 640
(REA Community Center)
- 8:00PM Canoga Park C
Participation (1 yr. to share)
22021 Sherman Way
(Serenity West - Back Door)
- 8:15 PM Van Nuys H/A
Big Book & Step Study
15220 Vanowen Boulevard
(Van Nuys Hospital, Room C)
- 8:15 PM Hollywood
Participation (ALL WELCOME!)
1625 N. Hudson - Parking in Rear
Gay & Lesbian Comm. Serv. Center

THURSDAY

- 7:30 PM Van Nuys H/A
Men's Stag
15220 Vanowen Boulevard
(Van Nuys Hospital, Room C)
- 8:00 PM Mar Vista
3590 Grandview Boulevard
(2blk N. Venice-1blk E. Centinela)
(St. Bede's Episcopal Church)
- 8:00 PM Mission Viejo H/A
"Last Connection" - Step Study
23228 Madero, Conference Room
Mission Viejo Charter Hospital

FRIDAY

- 6:30 PM Pasadena H/A
131 N. El Molino, Suite 320
(Council on Alcohol/Drug Dep.)
- 7:30 PM Orange H/A
"TGIF" Participation
812 Town and Country
(Ground Floor, Room 13)
- 8:00 PM Northridge H/A
Participation
18420 Roscoe (at Reseda Blvd)
(Pavilion Plaza)
- 8:30 PM West Hollywood
"Resin Resisters"-Step Study
8939½ Santa Monica Bl., Upstairs
(W. Hollywood Drug & Alcohol Ctr)
- 8:30 PM Alhambra/Rosemead
Participation
Ingleside Hosp (Adolescent Unit)
7500 Hellman Avenue

SATURDAY

- 10:30 AM Hollywood
Speaker Meeting (ALL WELCOME!)
1625 N. Hudson - Parking in Rear
Gay & Lesbian Comm. Serv. Center
- 10:30 AM Woodland Hills
"Saturday Morning Live" Spkr Mtg
21338 Dumetz Avenue, Room 202
(Woodland Hills Community Church)
- 12 Noon Whittier
Participation
12200 Washington Blvd. Room #N
- 6:00 PM San Diego H/A
"Weed Whackers"
9184 Gramercy Drive
(Von's Shopping Center:
Serenity Shop - Back Door)
- 6:00 PM Fountain Valley H/A
N.A. Book Study
16533 Brookhurst
(Elaine's Gifts - Back Door)

LEGEND: H/A - Handicapped Accessible
C - Closed, Addicts Only

For Information on Meetings
in Other Areas, Call
1-800-766-6779

Marijuana Anonymous
P.O. BOX 2912
VAN NUYS, CA 91404

(818)-566-3678
(213)-964-2370
(714)-999-9409