

New Awakenings

*The Awakenings do not end here;
they are a new beginning.*

SURRENDER is the key that unlocks the door to Recovery, the condition required to accept our Disease and our need for help. At this point we become teachable. But if we do not surrender to a Program of Living that works we will surely, eventually return to our familiar way of life.

Our surrender must be complete, without reservations. Reservations, no matter what they are, rob us of obtaining all the benefits this Program has to offer. The Program I decided to surrender to each day, each moment is Narcotics Anonymous, a program authored by God and written by Addicts clean in Narcotics Anonymous.

Coming to believe this is the cornerstone to our Second Step and is a restoration to sanity each day, each moment. From this point I become keenly aware of God's love for me. I can give my life to God's will for me, living the Narcotics Anonymous Program.

I can clean house and keep it clean, making myself an instrument of God's love. I can pray and meditate for knowledge of God's will for me and the power to carry that out. With an awakened spirit I don't have to look far for the path. To carry God's message, the Narcotics Anonymous Program, to Addicts and to be an example of our Program for all to see by practicing these principles in all my affairs.

The path is explicit. It is explained in our Basic Text, the one authored by God. It tells me how to accomplish the tasks God has laid before me, carry our message, live these principles. The Traditions instruct me to keep this message pure. They are not negotiable.

God's Program for us and our willingness to live it in our lives, without reservations, is our unity, preserving and protecting our common welfare. I am a servant entrusted with carrying our God given message to Addicts. Together with God and God's Program to guide us we come together in meetings to carry the Narcotics Anonymous message to all who have a desire to stop using. Together with other Addicts who believe in Narcotics Anonymous and are Recovering in Narcotics Anonymous we use our God given talents to make this Program available to all Addicts, FREE. We need nothing else. It is our price for freedom, our responsibility. We do this with anonymity, knowing that we are but instruments of God's love, the Narcotics Anonymous Principles. We stay free from any outside influences and focused on our primary purpose, to carry God's love to all Addicts in need who want this choice, who want to **SURRENDER**.

Looking Good

I recently attended the Regional Convention for our Area. I spent most of my time renewing old friendships and starting new ones. Though I enjoyed this endeavor, I was saddened to see that a strange malady had taken hold of the people commonly referred to as "old-timers". This disease was cunning and sly, and had, in all appearances, seemed able to take root and grow with out the apparent knowledge of it's host. I decided to dub this disease "God-itis". Here are some of the symptoms that I have observed.

1. Delusions of greatness (most apparent symptom).
2. Self proclaimed ability to solve any problem, no matter how big or small (usually accompanied with the tendency to have only the "right" answers).
3. A studied aptitude for close-mindedness.
4. An obvious lack of empathy, sympathy, or compassion for others (usually hidden behind a false mask of concern, accompanied with a list of pre-judged faults).
5. The lack of patience and tolerance for others.
6. The ability to make others feel like they've just been patted on the head and then shoed off (second most apparent symptom and my personal favorite).

This disease is usually cunningly hidden behind a veil of good meeting attendance and by the high numbers of acquired sponsees.

Not all of our "old-timers" have been afflicted with this horrible disease, of that we can be thankful. We must remember to be ever vigilant with the effort which we put into our personal recovery. These people suffer because they have forgotten the importance of applying spiritual principles in their daily lives. They have forgotten the joy of learning who they are and what they might yet become. What are we if we never give away what we have learned? And how can we give it away if we don't live it in our lives?

The old saying that if we look good, then we feel good is a lie. Never lose the desire, work the steps, and you shall be set free. That is a promise. Happiness and serenity are a bonus.

Publishing Box

New Awakenings was a service at cost for the fellowship of Narcotics Anonymous. It was not affiliated with the known service structure. We were guided in this effort by the principles contained in the 12 Steps & 12 Traditions of NA and by a desire to improve our internal communications. You may freely reproduce this newsletter in whole or in part as long as you don't sell it for a profit or alter the text - we call this the Fellowship Spiritual Trust.

We shared our experience and learned from each other. No individual inside or outside the fellowship represents Narcotics Anonymous. Nothing appearing in this newsletter was necessarily more than the feelings of one NA Member, just for today.

After three years of uninterrupted publishing we bring *New Awakenings* to an end. This last regular issue is devoted to giving back some of what we've learned in the process of making the newsletter. The *New Awakenings* bank account was closed 12/29/95 but the PO Box will remain so STAY PURE AND STAY IN TOUCH!!

Financial Statement

Received:

Virginia	25.00
New Jersey	10.00
California	260.00
<hr/>	
Total	295.00

Expenses Issue 5:

Printing	62.56
Postage	34.56
<hr/>	
Total	97.12

Please see p. 8 for a 3 year financial accounting

Compromising Our Principles Is No Way Of Life

My Sponsor told me to read the Basic Text. He said to read the Black Stuff. I laughed, he didn't. Then I thought about it. How often I heard things said in meetings that were different than in Our Book. Those subtle changes or misinterpretations seemed harmless at first, but how often these subtle changes are used to justify dangerous behavior. They are used by the Disease to keep us from the NA Program.

This has been going on since Our Book was written. At times these subtle changes have been incorporated into Our Book. Little by little we allowed more and more of our principles to be compromised. We allowed other than NA language, philosophy, topics and principles to be discussed at our NA meetings.

Just yesterday I went to an NA? meeting and heard things that at one time were the exception but now seems to be the rule. Someone talking about the topic of acceptance said that his house manager at his treatment center helped him with acceptance. The next person said that the house manager was a good guy because he had five years clean and sober and had been to college on this recovery stuff and therefore knew what he was talking about. The next person said that since he went to a treatment center and started going to these programs he accepted that he was powerless over drugs and alcohol. With help from his therapist and the medication which moderated his chemical in-balance caused by his bi-polar condition, he thought he might be able to stay clean and sober. Almost everyone clapped and shouted encouragement. I tried to keep dinner in my stomach and off the carpet. Someone else quoted from the Basic Text and received 30 blank stares and 2 of us shaking our heads up and down. No clapping, thank God! After the meeting the chairperson said he wished he had had another week to study the Big Book so he could have been better prepared to chair the meeting. I knew I shouldn't have eaten that chili for dinner.

So maybe it's not this bad where you go to meetings. Maybe it's worse. So how did we get here.

Easy, we started to compromise our principles. The service structure is a prime example. It's total disregard for the Traditions is obvious and has been exposed in earlier issues of this newsletter and is obvious if we just open our minds and question.

We must question everything, especially our own behavior and beliefs. The compromise starts with small things. It starts with charging for a product to fund a project. A product whether it be a dance, bake sale, raffle, literature, T-shirts, mugs, etc. If the Group needs money for rent then ask the members for money to pay the rent. Basic stuff.

It starts by saying profit from the sale of this product goes to make the project self supporting. If members want the project they will give money to the project. It starts by giving votes of confidence and trusting our trusted servants to make decisions therefore compromising our responsibility to the Traditions. It starts by having meetings that endorse treatment centers, other fellowships, other methods of recovery, and other outside issues by allowing and even encouraging members to talk about these things.

I go to NA meetings to learn about Narcotics Anonymous, the Black Stuff, and how NA members live these principles in their lives. Not what medicine, religion, and psychiatry has to offer. Remember none of these methods was sufficient for us. And of other fellowships we must remember that we have been guided by a Greater Consciousness. If I want to know about them I will go to the horses mouth. Newcomers come to NA meetings to learn about NA. Our 12th Step tasks us to carry the NA message to them. Have we forgotten?

Our Narcotics Anonymous God Given Program has disappeared from most members, almost all meetings and has been gone from the service structure for sometime. Those who stood for NA principles were told they were closed minded, cynical, and need to get a life. Most have gone into hiding. It ain't easy to stand for Principle. But if we want these principles to continue we must stand for the Black Stuff in our Basic Text. NO COMPROMISE!



Daily Definition ☺

from Webster's New World Dictionary,
College Edition

con•sis•tent (kən-sis'tənt.), *adj.* [L. *consistens*, ppr. of *consistere*; see *CONSIST*], [Rare], 1. holding together; firm or coherent: as, *consistent* soil. 2. agreeing; in harmony; in accord; compatible: as, overeating is not *consistent* with good health. 3. holding to the same principles or practice: as, *consistent* behavior.

op•por•tun•ism (op'ə-r-tōōn'iz'm, op'ə-r-tūn'iz'm), *n.* [*<opportunity*, after Fr. *opportunisme*], the policy or habit of adapting one's actions, thoughts, and utterances to circumstances, as in politics, in order to further one's immediate interests, without regard for basic principles or eventual consequences.

3 Years of *New Awakenings*

The Good, The Bad & The Ugly

It is difficult to know where our story begins. Jimmy Kinnon, who had kept our small fellowship alive with his volunteer efforts until the NA boom of the '70's, was replaced at the World Service Office by non-addict politician Bob Stone in 1983. Bob Stone brought with him the knowledge of how to set up an efficient IRS non-profit organization that could generate large profits. All of Jimmy's associates were eliminated save one who probably figured he could compromise a bit in order to do good from the inside. This change coincided with the completion of the anonymously written Basic Text, Narcotics Anonymous, sales of which quickly became a key to ongoing finance.

Part and parcel of the corporate takeover of our Spiritual Program was the destruction of the volunteer literature and Group Conscience processes that had written and approved our Basic Text. Lines in Our Book relating to the Ultimate Authority that might be heard in our autonomous NA Groups and the lack of authority of our service boards and committees were deleted without authority for the second time in 1984. In 1984 the NA Way magazine, previously done by volunteer service, became the second propaganda organ of the World Service Office, Inc. (the Newsline is the other). In 1987 a professionally written step book, probably superior to the current piece of product It Works: How and Why, was rejected by the Fellowship. Also in 1987 the Fourth edition of the Basic Text appeared and it was discovered that more lines were missing and that almost half of all lines in the book had been altered.

Individuals and then Groups began reproducing the Third Edition, Revised Basic Text after finding the Fourth edition unacceptable. The lines deleted in 1984 were restored and the free books became known as the "Baby Blues". By this time the W.S.O., Inc. had rewritten their own corporate by-laws to allow themselves to rewrite their own corporate by-laws and had listed "W.S.O., Inc." as the

author of the Basic Text in U.S. copyright filings. They further allowed themselves the right to steer W.S.O., Inc.'s purchases to private companies in which they individually had financial interests.

In 1990 W.S.O., Inc. sued a previously anonymous member for printing the Baby Blues. This was done amid a campaign of hysteria, lies, death threats, and blacklisting. The same year came an independent newsletter out of northern Florida called Speaking of Service (SOS) to provide the alternate viewpoints.

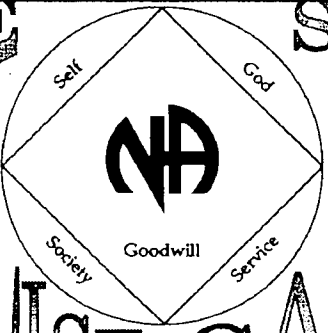
An NA history conference was held in Allentown, Pennsylvania over the July 4th weekend in 1992. It was the sixth in a series of ten that would eventually be held from Alabama to Michigan. (Some fascinating audio tapes from some of these are available for those interested). The last SOS newsletter had just been published after a year's absence. Some talk that weekend centered on the possibilities of reinvigorating it or starting another as all seemed to see a clear need for such a vehicle. There further seemed to be a clear consensus that we had through the SOS engaged in too much "shrill vitriolic" and that we should henceforth focus on "the solutions, not the problems".

Some of us participated in the literature trust conferences only to get burned again. Others of us insisted we had nothing to negotiate. Grateful Dave, the member named in the court case, died in July 1992. Since then the "Concepts" have amended the Traditions in the known service structure with little opposition. The court case was shelved in January 1993 without judgement. The NA history conferences and movement were largely abandoned in favor of work on a book that now sold for \$30 or \$20 or \$20 for half, depending on when and where one asked. Meanwhile, efforts to revive the SOS failed and Volume 1 Number 1 of the *New Awakenings* was printed and mailed out in February of that year.

We Really Would Not Have It Any Other Way

From the beginning of *New Awakenings* we were faced with determining how to handle the money necessary to print and mail the newsletter. History provided plenty of

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bad examples. We had seen how money generated from one source was used to finance other things and that this had turned into a primary method by which funding for something not wanted was obtained, thus compromising Tradition 9. We had seen how many NA products and services were sanctioned or unsanctioned private enterprises. We had seen millions of dollars change hands in the Fellowship with few asking where it went and fewer still offering an accounting.

We read "self-supporting" and we took it to mean self-supporting; we read "voluntary contributions" and we took it to mean voluntary contributions. All we needed to print and mail the newsletter was the cost to us (us, meaning NA members) of the printing and mailing. If members wanted to find the newsletter in their mailbox then they ought to be willing to pay for it, right?

We instituted this system: We reported all costs and donations so that those we served could act as our eyes and ears and make informed decisions. We calculated and projected from cost what six issues (a years worth) would be, and notified members when their year was up. We further stipulated that the newsletter donations would be used only to print and mail the newsletter and that the newsletter bank account could be used only for the newsletter. It seems shameful to have to point out that if donated NA money winds up paying for some member's rent or groceries then we've abandoned the principle of Tradition Eight and that member has no regard for the Principle of Tradition Seven.

Immediately we saw that doing it this way allowed those that merely wished to receive the *New Awakenings* but in no way support or perpetrate it to exercise that choice, that freedom. Remember, the purpose was communication. The necessary research was done and the effort made to produce the most newsletter for the least amount of money. We spoke to approximately 30 printers before starting and wound up cutting the paper so that the resulting newsletter would weigh 1 ounce exactly for the purpose of postage.

If It's Not Practical...

The second big decision we faced in the beginning was editorial policy, or what to print and how to decide that. Practicality quickly helped make that decision. We were from the beginning a shaky coalition of members with very different opinions. To have anything other than an open forum style newsletter would have simply been impossible. It was realized too that when it came to discussing what had happened to NA, two members who had sat in the same meeting in the same room could give extremely different accounts of what had happened there. It never occurred to us that we had the authority to determine the truth for you. Out of the history movement we had come to believe that the only way for the Fellowship to be made aware was to allow everyone to contribute their perspective and let the chips fall. We believed the newsletter readership would be best served by hearing freely any and all accounts, any and all points of view. Certainly the last thing we all needed was another Board of Censorship, another Committee on Ultimate Truth. That this was what was principally needed remains your judgement; use it or lose it.

That we had no certain mechanism for practicing the Second Tradition in this effort further reassured us of the correctness of these two major decisions. Our originally sponsoring Home Group in Allentown failed completely to provide ongoing direction and support.

Words Mean Nothing Until We Put Them Into Action


Fundamental differences among the cooperants came up immediately. With the first appearance of the page 2 Financial Statement came an objection from the sleazy side that, "You don't have to do *t-h-a-t*". This was soon followed by a request from the same quarters for expense money from the bank account. This was refused. Our point of view on "expenses" was discussed in the February-March issue of '94. We stepped out on the faith that each of us must and would contribute to the common welfare, that a system of putting a dollar in the basket and then waiting at the other end of the trough to get it out need not always be the best way of "taking care of business". We believed and have now proved with several projects that communications, transportation and support costs will be born by those who care enough about a project. That which does not get done on this basis *should* not be done. It should suffice to say that unless we draw a sharp line on this, we can eventually be flying the least important people around the globe again and expecting different results. No matter the nature of the service, we can always rationalize and justify the addition of some monies "to do good" or "to be sure and have enough". The idea that there should be products and profit margins in NA service is ridiculous, that it has become so entrenched in our minds is a horror.

One of the most inspiring episodes in the three year history of *New Awakenings* came in July '94 when we were concerned by a sudden, inexplicable lack of donations. We printed the single word (HELP!) in the financial box and y'all responded. It was our belief and faith that with an uncensored open forum we could make our point by the *example* of service even while printing freely articles we did not agree with. Looking back, among many feelings we have in ending the newsletter, is great satisfaction in that success. Getting others to see this is another matter.

The Questionnaire

From June '94 to June '95 we sent out the following Questionnaire as a year was up on your subscriptions. This we hoped would provide some more insight and participation from those who had been following along for more than an issue or two. The response rate overall was about 15%, which, given that it has come up elsewhere, may be the actual responseable rate of the Fellowship. We suspect a handful of individuals at World Services knows how this works, and they work it very well.

Numbers 1 and 7 reveal how the newsletter spread. While mailing to members using lists sent in or from history conferences (we went through large numbers of these), respondents ran approximately 4%.

A publishing committee could only be defined as those members willing and able to do the production work - the typing, the layout, the proof-reading, the correspondence & coordination, production-end maintenance, banking, and of course the folding, stamping and mailing. In an 

ongoing way this has been two addicts located in Northern California though quite a few more have lent a hand at times. We thank you for not checking "WSO Inc." on numbers 2,3 or 8.

Responses to number 3 were a bit disheartening. Although many tried at many different times and in many different ways, we undoubtedly failed to communicate the simple idea that YOU the readers write the newsletter. Not counting the history, structure documents, Bits From The Mailbag, or committee work, 47 members contributed the articles.

While number 12 was obviously a trick question (as somebody pointed out) there was no doubt more than one. Numbers 4 and 5 are good examples. Most members who had definite desires to see more or less of something never

Thank you for taking the time to fill out this questionnaire/resubscription. For questions with an asterisk (*) next to them, check as many as you wish; the rest please mark one choice only. There are no correct choices. We just want to know where we are at. We need your viewpoint. Please use additional pages to add additional comments if you've got the time and inclination.

1. How did you hear about the *New Awakenings* newsletter?
 - ☒ 6 Another NA member
 - ☒ 3 At an NA meeting
 - ☒ 3 At an NA convention
 - ☒ 1 At an NA service committee
 - ☒ 6 Received one in the mail (Post for you European people)
 - ☒ 1 Other _____
2. Who do you think publishes the newsletter?
 - ☒ 4 One NA member
 - ☒ 18 More than one NA member
 - ☒ 0 An NA Group
 - ☒ 0 A service committee
 - ☒ 0 WSO Inc.
 - ☒ 3 Other _____
3. Who do you think writes the articles for the newsletter?
 - ☒ 0 One NA member
 - ☒ 17 More than one NA member
 - ☒ 0 A service committee
 - ☒ 0 WSO Inc.
 - ☒ 6 Newsletter readers
 - ☒ 2 Others _____
- *4. I would like to see more of these in the newsletter:
 - ☒ 9 Cartoons & other art work
 - ☒ 4 Scurrilous allegations
 - ☒ 13 News articles
 - ☒ 13 Personal testimonies of NA Principles
 - ☒ 17 Historical literature & documents
 - ☒ 21 What "we" can do
 - ☒ 6 What "they" did
 - ☒ 6 Other _____
- *5. I would like to see less of these in the newsletter:
 - ☒ 2 Cartoons & other art work
 - ☒ 14 Scurrilous allegations
 - ☒ 3 News articles
 - ☒ 4 Personal testimonies of NA Principles
 - ☒ 3 Historical literature & documents
 - ☒ 2 What "we" can do
 - ☒ 10 What "they" did
 - ☒ 6 Other _____
6. The newsletter has rejected only articles that contradict our Twelve Traditions. To date there have been a very small number of these. Do you think we should use:
 - ☒ 0 More controls?
 - ☒ 1 Less controls?
 - ☒ 21 Same controls?

☒ provided anything. We said we wanted to know where we are at; we didn't say we would drive over there and pick it up. Has interacting with that structure left you a waiting, whimpering, whimpy, willing victim?

"What we would like to see more of" (#4) got as scattered and collectively inconclusive a set of responses as any of them. One of the earliest and most serious seeming criticisms was that there wasn't much *news* in the newsletter. Our poor and somewhat desperate attempt with the "NewsBits" did not seem to inspire anyone. Several members checked all the boxes or wrote in something to indicate an appetite for more of everything. We appreciated very much those who added additional comments throughout.

Number 5, "What we would like to see less of", reveals that addicts like the warm & fuzzy feel-good stuff. What a surprise. We are glad the reader always had the option of subscribing to *The NA Way* instead. The approach suggested as the Clearest of Them All, that we could "catch more flies with honey", we unconditionally reject as Most Contemptible of Them All.

The "Scurrilous allegations" box seemed to be the big magnet for those anxious to vote away that-which-is-disquieting and was probably constructed to be so. Did anyone bother to look up "scurrilous" in the dictionary? We actually did get some scurrilous allegations once: a set of financial improprieties ☒

7. How many copies of the newsletter do you normally make and distribute?
- ☒ 0
☒ 1-5
☒ 5-10
☒ Over 10
8. How do you think the newsletter is financed?
- ☒ A few NA members
☒ A service committee
☒ WSO Inc.
☒ Profit from sales of NA literature & other products
☒ Donations from newsletter readers
☒ A combination of the above
☒ other _____
9. How should we pay for the newsletter?
- ☒ Set the subscription price above the cost of the newsletter to offset expense of sending introductory newsletters to potential subscribers & subscriptions to addicts who can't afford a subscription
☒ finance it through other sources such as service committee, WSO Inc., fundraisers, profit generated through sales of recovery products, etc.
☒ Set subscription price equal to cost and depend on donations to offset expense of sending introductory newsletters to potential subscribers & subscriptions to addicts who can't afford a subscription
10. Do you think we should generate funds with the newsletter to accomplish other projects?
- ☒ Yes. If yes, what? _____
☒ No
11. Do you feel the newsletter is directly responsible to the subscribers?
- ☒ Yes
☒ No
12. Have you sent an article to the newsletter?
- ☒ Yes, but I'm sending another in a week
☒ No, but I'm sending one in a week

including some names, dates and amounts. They were given us by a World Service insider but because we had no way to verify them, we never printed them. Those who'd like to see them anyway, please raise your hand. OK, you can all put your hands down now.

Behind #6 lies an interesting experience. Long, tedious efforts to write "guidelines" to assure principles before personalities in the newsletter went on for quite some time but in the end came to naught as we saw that beside the commitments of at-cost financing and practical dictates of production, we already had the only guidelines that would work: The Twelve Traditions of Narcotics Anonymous.

Sorting Through The Confusion

At one time we had quite a go-round with a recovery professional and would-be leader of the Enraged Andas. We would not print her stuff and so helped to birth an Enraged Anda newsletter. We wish them well with that effort.

In 224 pages of *New Awakenings* we printed some really brilliant gems and some pretty bad articles too. We hope you found the same. Working meticulously to lay out in the page, pretty up and proof read an article we did not like was sometimes a difficult, prayerful ("Your Will, not mine... Your Will, not mine..."), but growing experience. Will such an open forum style NA newsletter ever be

attempted again? In the end, the articles we received and never printed fall readily into three categories: 1) A few individuals sent more of their writings than we could ever print without running more than someone's fair share, 2) One incoherent and the Enraged Anda articles, 3) Two very nice articles that we received here in the last two months for which there is unfortunately no space left.

We take complete responsibility for matters of layout and appearance. There have been a lot of typos. There have been some graphic effects that failed. There have been some matters of layout, such as confusing juxtaposition that we are far from proud of. There have been choices we made in presentation that were piss poor. A recent example fresh on the mind is the "cease & desist" letter of on page 3 of this last October-November ('95) issue. Someone from that area apparently thought that that group had a special need for the previous "total abstinence" issue and sent it to them. Our presentation matched the sting of their registered letter without telling the story: we never sent them anything and they surely knew it. They were never on our mailing list and their existence was news to us.

Rid Of The Burdens and Traps

The biggest change made and the most significant and difficult policy issue we faced in the course of the three

1995 Financial Statement	ISSUE 1	ISSUE 2	ISSUE 3	ISSUE 4	ISSUE 5	ISSUE 6	TOTALS 1-6
Donations Received	106.50	130.00	187.60	82.00	20.00	295.00	821.10
Printing Cost	95.80	86.87	96.88	79.02	62.56	*	421.13
Total Postage	53.12	41.60	29.12	24.32	34.56	*	182.72
Copies Made	250	225	250	200	160	*	1085
Print Cost per Unit	0.38	0.39	0.39	0.40	0.39	*	xxxx
Per Copy Delivered Cost	0.70	0.71	0.71	0.72	0.71	*	3.54
Donations Less Costs	-42.42	1.53	61.60	-21.34	-77.12	*	-77.75

* We will use up the remaining funds to print and mail this issue -
at least enough to fulfill our obligation to the current mailing list of 92 members.

13 years was the matter of using the *New Awakenings* to plug other, sometimes unaccountable, services. As time went by we became increasingly concerned about what disservice we were doing to the readership through endorsements of other dubious projects. There came a time that an embattled Group was referred by us to a strange bedfellow, known in their region to be no friend of the Groups. Their bafflement became our new awakening. We realized that we had sacrificed those we would serve for the sake of a political agenda.

In addition to similar problems mentioned in past issues, we learned recently that two letters to Central Lake, Michigan concerning documents offered in these pages were never answered. There is now such a long-standing pattern of diversion and disruption from certain quarters that we consider the possibility of conscious sabotage.

We are sorry that the *New Awakenings* did not generate more debate and more participation as a vehicle of communication between Traditionalist members and Groups. We think that there are two primary reasons why we have collectively stayed stuck in the problem and not gotten on better to those solutions we hoped for in the beginning. The first is mistaking the Warm & Fuzzy for the Spiritual, the social acceptability for the recovery, the Fellowship for the Program. The drugs were warm & fuzzy and so are the con men. Our Book does not say, "Unity means we all have to get along with one another"; Our Book says, "Unity depends on how well we follow our Traditions". The second is remaining focused on the structure. Many members still see the structure as offering something they would want.

We have been continuously surprised by the number of members who see our objective, as fighting the structure, negotiating with it or attempting to turn the Fellowship around somehow. To keep NA alive we need to admit that the majority of the Fellowship has been diverted by a program of money, property and prestige. Vested interests have steadily consolidated their hold on the structure over

3-Year Overview	YEAR 1 1993	YEAR 2 1994	YEAR 3 1995	TOTALS
Donations Received	655.39	1082.47	821.10	2558.96
Printing Cost	719.64	612.15	421.13	1752.92
Total Postage	261.29	289.42	182.72	733.43
Copies Made	1725	1675	1085	4485.00
Donations Less Costs	-325.54	180.90	217.25	72.61

the last ten years. Involvement in this is more like doing drugs than anything else we can think of - as long as we do it we cannot stop nor can we see what we're doing. Struggling to turn it around is like spending the day at the dope house trying to convince those people to come on out for recovery; one's chances of success are very slim while the chances of messing oneself up are very great indeed. Realistically, the best we can hope for is to waste our time. What part have we played a part in this?

We can only surrender for ourselves. Commitment is surrender in action and follow-through is consistency in Commitment. Our Book contains our solutions. Waiting for the Glorious Old-Timers to lead us to the promised land has proved a tragic mistake.

Looking Forward

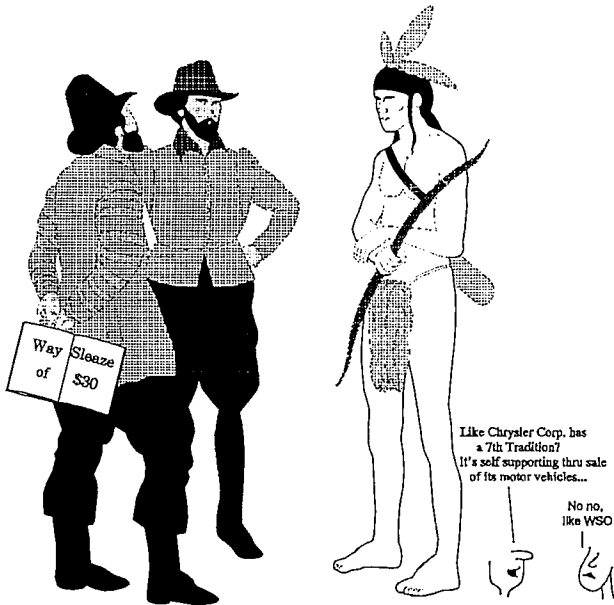
Consistency and integrity are both the ends and the means. Our position regarding the ownership of NA is simple: there is no copyright that can supersede our authorship; there is no document that can supersede our Traditions. Others can sell as many books as they wish; we can't stop them, wouldn't dream of trying.

We have seen that without a project for practice, principle as theory provides minimal growth. We truly have no words to describe how much we have gained personally out of the not-always-easy *New Awakenings*. From the bottom of our hearts we thank you one and all for participating in this.

Those already gloating over the end of *New Awakenings* will jump for joy at the completion of our next project. The PO box here will remain for the ongoing purpose of communication and we urge the willing to stay in touch. ♦

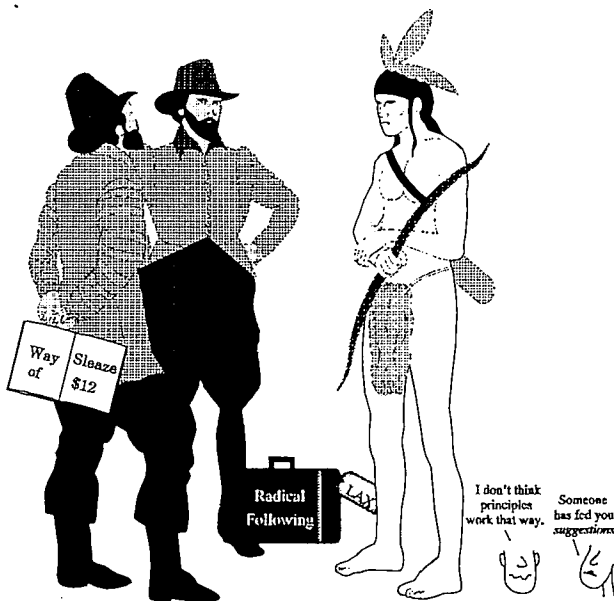
"TRUST ME" Revised '95

The effort is made self supporting by selling copies for thirty dollars



God is sending out a signal to many membe
ngping, definitive text with love and style. W
selflessly financial accountability to help where we can si
same way Breakthrough, true spiritu
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um it. I'm sure you're true spirit
e let your Higher Power in charge
we sometimes forget that the real miracle is

We have probably been guilty of placing personalities before principles in a positive sense -



Actually, there's more to accountability than just financial accountability...





Once Upon a Time in Never-Never Land there were some NA members. Actually, these members were a Group. They knew this because they had Twelve Traditions and they read them, the black part. They had purpose and attraction so God sent them more members.

New members living in hell were given freedom, FREE. They just helped each other and admitted things. More and more members came and there was more and more energy. They made decisions during group conscience using the Traditions and it was good.

In time it got so good it got a little unwieldy. Some of the members who lived across town made a decision to start another autonomous Group across town. They copied what the first Group had done except their tastes and circumstances were a bit different. Across Town Group and First Group visited each 'n to the other and felt at home away from home. Next Town Down Group was started in similar fashion.

When Streetcorner Stephanie moved back home after finishing college she started Next State Over Group and stayed in touch using the telephone and the mail box. She was especially good with the mail box; that one could not see how the mail got down into the box once you let go of the handle did not phase her. She had faith.

This growth went on for some time. The groups formed service committees to do the work that was easier done together - literature, meeting schedules, phelines, support for H&I meetings sponsored by the Groups and mailing information. Their hard work was rewarded when God made possible a book of their NA recovery program. It was truly a gift. It was the unifying message in a society that revered autonomy and was itself greatly revered.

In their service efforts they followed a basic formula lest they be diverted and corrupted:

1. What did the Groups need to do?
2. What was the simplest, most effective way to do that?
3. Was this completely consistent with their 12 Traditions?

Groups combined their efforts in this way, the combinations limited usually by geography. They combined their funds to make purchases more cheaply. It was basic.

In time a world-wide service center was opened to handle information distribution of all kinds. Located in Goodland, Kansas, it boasted 3 secretaries, 3 shipping clerks, and a fine big loading dock at the back. Phoning the center usually got one a referral to a volunteer

service

committee somewhere. The employees were hired at the going rates. They got medical and dental and paid vacations. When they finished their days work and went home at night, they were grateful. None of them were addicts.

Later, as NA grew and the information age took off, all the Groups hired a computer technician to keep the modern technology running. NA and the information age took to each other as you can imagine! Members and Groups shared more faster. If one had a computer, one could dial in and get a meeting schedule from Minneapolis or minutes from Munich. NAurally all the office records could be downloaded. It was truly a service center.

And so they kept it pure and simple and it was good and many, many people were very glad.

~ The End ~
(or perhaps the beginning)

AUTONOMY

WE NEED LOOK NO FURTHER THAN OUR BASIC TEXT TO DISCOVER WHAT AUTONOMY MEANS. NA GROUPS HAVE THE RIGHT OR POWER OF SELF GOVERNMENT. THIS SELF GOVERNANCE IS DISCUSSED HERE IN TRADITION FOUR.

NON-NEGOTIABILITY IS THE PLATE ON WHICH AUTONOMY IS SERVED. FOR THE GROUP, FREEDOM MUST INCLUDE THE FREEDOM TO DO WRONG IN SOMEONE ELSE'S EYES, ELSE THAT FREEDOM IS NO FREEDOM AT ALL.

FREEDOM IS DEFINED IN TERMS OF CHOICE, SELF GOVERNANCE AND LIBERTY. OUR TRADITIONS DEMAND VIGILANCE AS OUR MEMBERSHIP REQUIRES DESIRE.

BOTH EDGES OF THIS TWO EDGED SWORD ARE RESPONSIBILITY. IT IS THE SWORD OF FREEDOM. IT IS A HEAVY SWORD. VIGILANCE IS ITS HANDLE AND FREEDOM THE POINT.

This is the cover letter from a packet being circulated in the Fellowship

MAKING OUR BOOK

Introduction. Enclosed is a (hopefully) perfect laser-printed copy of the Basic Text, Narcotics Anonymous, 3rd Edition Revised with the original 4th & 9th Traditions. It is the last form of OUR Book approved by the Groups of Narcotics Anonymous. It is identical to the Baby Blue except that we have: (1) corrected the typos that existed in that version, and (2) have collapsed the line-spacing, narrowed the margins, and eliminated some of the wasted white spaces. The down side of this is that the text on a given page is no longer consistent with the location of that text in the source. The upside is that the number of pages (and hence the cost) has been reduced about 20%. You should be able to make books for \$1.20 each or less.

Since some clarity is inevitably lost in xeroxing, every effort has been made to give you the highest quality master copy; we suggest that you keep it safe and clean until you're ready to print.

Production Suggestions.

I. Printing

The key to local cost will be locating the cheapest possible copying machine. If you own one you've got it made. Otherwise some research may be in order. Would some member's boss let you use the office machine for cost? Will you be doing enough copies all at once to warrant a rental? What kind of deal can you strike with a local copy shop? (You may need them for some of the following procedures anyway).

II. The Covers

The heaviest copying machines will take 67lb paper, max. This makes a perfect cover. But remember, most machines will not handle paper this heavy.

III. Stapling

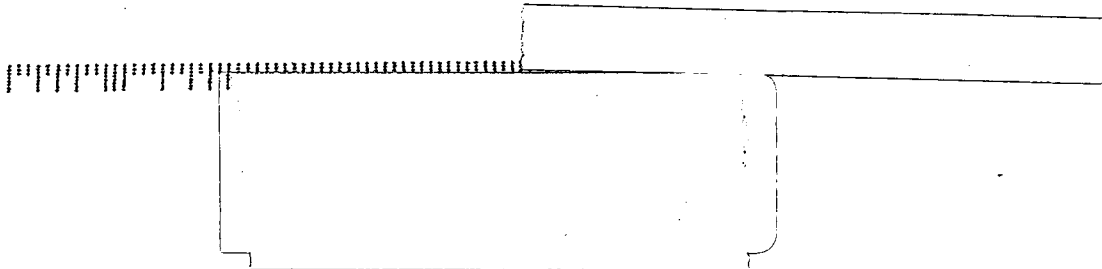
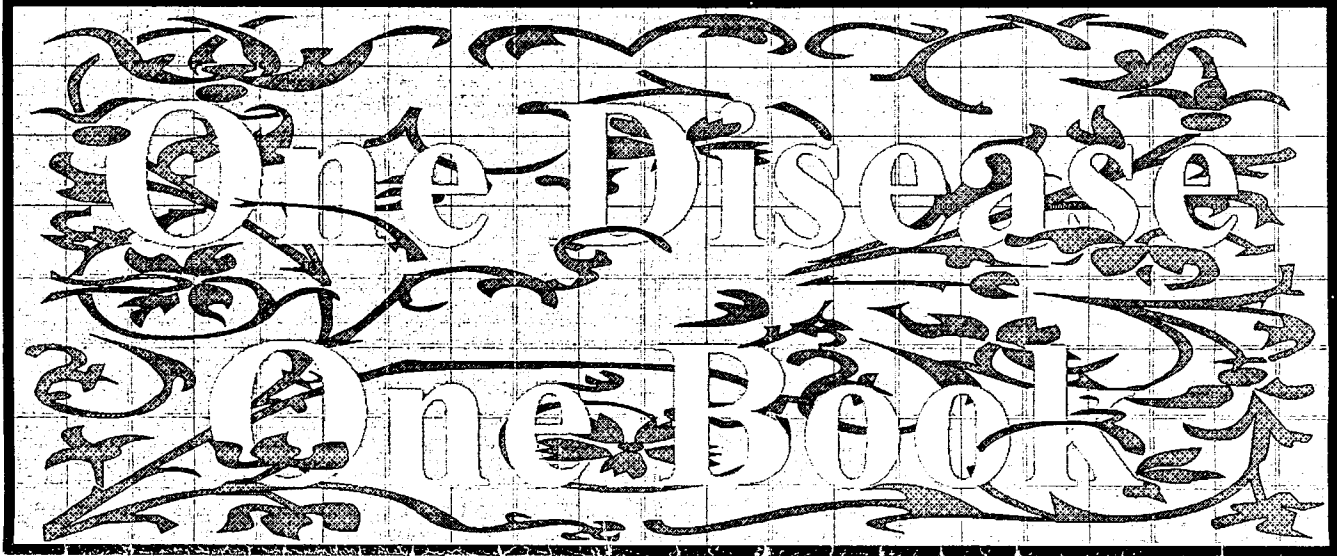
A normal stapler will not reach in 5.5" or so to bind Our Book on the center fold. Most copy shops have such versatile staplers however, and you may wish to incorporate this service in the price of others such as folding, cutting or more. Alternatively, we found a "long reach" stapler for \$19.95. It takes standard staples (light weight) only and though this seems sufficient, you may wish to consider a larger, heavier staple.

IV. Cutting

After printing, stapling, and folding, the interior pages of Our Book protrude fan-like from the cover. Though you may wish to eliminate this expense, the Baby Blue, the Little Red and the English Green have all had their right edges cut as a last step. This is done on large cutting machines found at many copy shops. We know one shop that cuts 500 pages for \$2 and another that charges \$4.50 per foot. A large chain copy shop is known to throw cutting in for free on sizable jobs.

Goodbye & God Bless.

We wish you good luck. The primary purpose is to carry the message, not the Office. We hope that this effort contributes to that purpose, to the purpose of keeping NA service Basic and closest to the point of delivery. We also hope that as a local project this will generate a noticeable rebirth of enthusiasm in spirit and responsibility. Be creative in choosing a cover color or redesign the cover entirely. We trust you not to alter the text or sell them for a profit!



New Awakenings
P.O. BOX 21232
OAKLAND CA 94620
U.S.A.

