



"I hear you're quitting as Webmaster" people tell me.

Well the answer to that is an emphatic "No!" But there is some basis to the rumor. Let me tell you about it.

Over the six years that I've been SAA Webmaster the job has grown, along with the size of the website. The amount of work involved has increased too and the daily tasks of updating the meeting lists and other routine matters have been taking a toll on my personal life. So I've been looking for a way to pass on these routine matters.

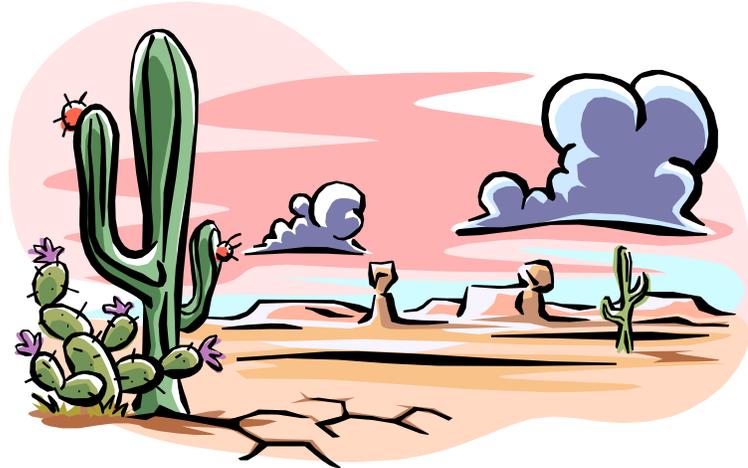
What's going to happen is that the Webpage maintenance is going to gradually moved to the SAA Office. There are a couple of challenges in doing this, as the Office has limited computer facilities and skills. So we're planning a significant upgrade to PCs using Office XP. Along with this upgrade comes an opportunity to simplify the web page production.

Currently the SAA Meeting List is kept on a computer database in the Office. I have been tracking the Office database on a Microsoft Access database at my home. I then have a computer program that creates the SAA Meeting List. Once all this work is under one roof, we'd like to combine the databases.

We're looking for volunteers with experience with Access database design to join a group of us in designing this new database. So if you've got experience in this area and are willing to help, please contact me at:

webmaster@saa-recovery.org

Bob D. SAA Webmaster



PBR Editor Resigns After Near Five Year Stint LitCom seeks apps ASAP... [See page six [6]]

NOTICE OF RESIGNATION

TO: Board of Directors, ISO of SAA
Literature Committee of SAA
FROM: Robert V. S [last name],
Editor, Plain Brown Rapper
DATE: November 12, 2001
Having envisioned over two years ago the forthcoming changes in the processes of producing the ISO Newsletter, the Plain Brown Rapper, and in seeing preparations for the implementing these changes being made at this time, it is needful that I offer my resignation so the process of securing my successor might be immediately put into place.

Since the Literature Committee met in teleconference yesterday, November 11, 2001, I indicated my intention to write this to you today so an announcement for the search for my successor might be made. The reason for this is that the Literature Committee, by virtue of the ISO of SAA By-laws, should nominate the PBR Editor, after which the ISO Board would negotiate a contract for the position. The timing of this action

seems to be upon us.

Unless there is reason to the contrary, I would publish in the coming issue of the PBR the need for a successor so that applications for the position might be reviewed in the next few months.

Therefore, I offer my resignation so as to be effective following the newsletter scheduled for April/May of 2002. This means I would, at your pleasure, produce the issues of Dec 2001/January 2002, February/March, and April/May of 2002.

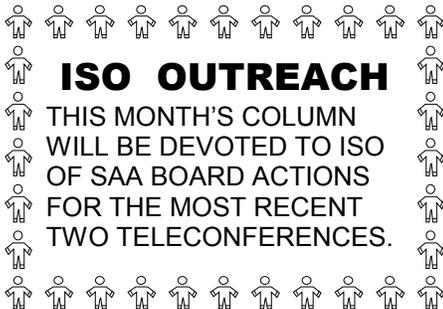
I would be available to assist with any portion of the "change-over" process as the ISO Office or the new PBR Editor might wish.

I do not know if any of the PBR's prior to 1997 are electronically archived. If it is desired that they should be, it might be something I could help with in the foreseeable future, on a volunteer basis of course.

Please advise if there is any question.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to have served, for the financial rewards of doing this work, and for your engaging assistance in making these last 4-plus years so beneficial to my recovery, and hopefully that of others as well. Peace,

Robert S [last name]
PBR Editor



ISO OUTREACH

THIS MONTH'S COLUMN
WILL BE DEVOTED TO ISO
OF SAA BOARD ACTIONS
FOR THE MOST RECENT
TWO TELECONFERENCES.

[From the August 18, 2001 Board Teleconference]

SAA Book Report

Accepted the following SAA Book progress report by Jeff W.:

"July 2001 Progress Report
"The writing has continued to go very well. I am working at the same good pace as I reported in May. I'm still writing the chapters on the twelve steps. I have taken the Literature Committee's suggestion that the steps receive greater emphasis and that more of the material be explained in the context of the twelve steps. I am very excited about the material. It is clear, thorough, and emphasizes the role of our Higher Power and spirituality in our recovery. I find that the writing has helped put me in touch with my Higher Power and that it is part of my spiritual practice.

"I believe that I am about two-fifths of the way through the chapters on the twelve steps. Of course, as with the previous draft, Pat will have his own opinions about the twelve steps and he will likely have a great deal to say about these chapters. So even when I'm done writing, it won't be finished until he edits my work, contributes his own writing, and we have a few discussions (a.k.a. arguments).

"Attending the delegate convention reinforced how much anticipation there is for this book. Many of the discussions related directly or indirectly to the book. These included income from the book being in next year's budget and the vote to eventually discontinue the sale of outside literature by the ISO office. The debate over outside literature revealed the high expectations the members of the fellowship have for this book. Pat and I have no inten-

tion of disappointing anyone so long as it is within our power. However, I don't think that either of us believes we are going to write a book that can replace the AA Big Book in people's recovery.

"Several people I met offered their encouragement and support. A few people who had seen the first draft that the Literature Committee reviewed gave their impressions of it which were generally quite favorable and encouraging.

"I met with the Literature Committee at the convention and reported our progress. I explained that I was planning on meeting with Pat after the convention and working directly with him from that time forward. Pat and I had agreed at the beginning of this year that I would start work on the second draft before the convention as the Spring is one of the busiest times of the year for Pat and that we would coordinate our efforts after the convention.

"Pat and I have spoken several times since the convention. I have sent him all of the feedback from the Literature Committee from the retreat in New Orleans as well as my writing to date. He wants to take some time to review these materials and come to his own conclusions about what is needed for this next draft. We will then discuss our individual visions for this draft and start working from there.

"Pat has indicated that he is more available to work on this draft than I had previously represented. He told me that he is looking forward to rolling up his sleeves and writing. I'm looking forward to the fruits of this collaboration."

END OF JEFF'S REPORT...

Continuing business:

Office Manager's Salary Adjustment

Approved a motion to accept the office manager's Annual Performance Evaluation and to recommend to the Board that the office manager's salary be reviewed by the OOC with a recommendation back to the Board at the November meeting for a possible bonus and salary adjustment in January, 2002.

Board/Committee Liability Insurance

Authorized the treasurer and office manager to pay the full Non-Profit Organization Liability Insurance premium of \$1,806 in one lump sum from daily operating funds, if possible, or from the Operational Reserve, if necessary, with a 12-month payback.

PSA Storyboard Agreement

Approved but did not execute an Agreement to Purchase Creative Television Concepts (PSA Storyboard) with Jonestreet Media Arts. (Note: The agreement is for the ISO to pay the \$2,000 for the storyboard, if Jonestreet Media Arts produces the PSA spots, and \$5,000 if it does not).

Delegate Recommendation - IFF Representation

Approved a motion to annually send a Board member or an alternate as the official ISO representative to the Interfellowship Forum with authority to act on behalf of the ISO in accordance with the Twelve Traditions of SAA and the by-laws of the ISO of SAA, Inc.

Manning the ISO Office:

Voted to hire a second full-time employee.

Funding For Additional Staff

Made each Board member responsible for getting 13 new LifeLine Partner members who pledge a suggested contribution of at least \$25 per month.

The Following actions are from a special vote held by telephone and e-mail between August 20 and August 27, 2001:

The Board voted to hold a special teleconference to focus on the concerns put forth by Elizabeth S., Co-Chair of the SAA Book Subcommittee of the Literature Committee.

. From a special vote held by telephone and e-mail between September 17 and September 21, 2001:

In the light of new information, the Board voted to wait until its next regular teleconference in November to discuss the SAA Book and the issues brought up by Elizabeth S.

(Continued on page 6)

SPONSORSHIP CORNER...

SAA SPONSORSHIP LITERATURE

As a fellowship we do not have any fellowship approved literature on sponsorship. It is mentioned in some of our materials, but there are no pamphlets or guides. The closest we have come is a draft of a sponsorship pamphlet that was presented at the annual convention in the last decade but never approved. And although there is one in the hands of a Subcommittee of the Literature Committee at this time, it is far from presentation to the Fellowship.

It may be tempting to wring our hands about this deficit, but perhaps it points out the reality that sponsorship is a very large and involved topic which does not easily lend itself to reduction to a "how to" text. I am reminded of this every time the subject comes up in a meeting and group members share the breadth of guidance they receive from their sponsors. It becomes clear that there are so many ways that work in "doing" sponsorship. There is probably no way to get all that wisdom into a few thousand words for a brochure and hope to cover the subject adequately.

In two years of writing and editing this column, I have attempted to share some ideas I have had on the subject and to provide a forum for others to share their experiences and insight. Perhaps it is time to move away from the personal level for a while and see what wisdom has been developing in groups and regions of the fel-

lowship.

To that end, I am asking that individuals, groups, committees or intergroups that have developed some written material on sponsorship for their own use--whether in retreats, workshops, handouts to new members or some other venue--pass those materials along to this column.

I will present those materials and point out the various approaches that different contributors take. This could take several issues of the PBR and show us all the greater insights of our broad fellowship. We all could benefit.

Will you please share what you have written on the subject of sponsorship with the rest of the SAA fellowship?

If your material can be sent by e-mail, please send it to: info@saa-recovery.org. You may also use the PBR e-mail address which is: pbr@saa-recovery.org. Put "Sponsorship" in the message box.

If you have only hard copy, please mail it to: Sponsorship Corner/ PBR--ISO of SAA/ P.O. Box 70949/ Houston, TX 77270.

All materials will be properly credited and presented respectfully.
Thank you!!!
CC.



Mike L., Translations Sub-Committee Chair...

Mike L. has been Chair of the above group for "many moons." His efforts brought the Spanish Translations to where they are now. And he continues.

The Literature Committee agonized over the many facets of translations and lately, the use of professional translators has become a subject of concern. Perhaps from the standpoint of funding, and also the selection of the persons to do the work. Mike has been deeply involved in all these processes.

And since he has a "passing acquaintance" with AA, he sends the following to the Literature Committee members, and we pass it along to you, that all the Fellowship has appropriate cognizance of Step 12 and Tradition 5 at the level of Regional and International Service. His letter:

"Hello gang--
Here is a statement concerning translations that appears in the Foreword to the Fourth Edition of the AA Big Book. Y'all may find it useful when pitching to the board the idea of hiring a professional to do our translations. The quote is on page xxiii:

'Literature has played a major role in A.A.'s growth, and a striking phenomenon of the past quarter-century has been the explosion of translations of our basic literature into many languages and dialects. In country after country where the A. A. seed was planted, it has taken root, slowly at first, then growing by leaps and bounds when literature has become available. Currently, "Alcoholics Anonymous" has been translated into forty-three languages.'

Given the importance AA places on literature, I can see why they only trust this valuable work to professionals."

Mike L.



POET'S PAGE



"Song of Recovery"

My life is now in focus
Let me set the record straight
I believed in hocus pocus
Was left standing at the gate.

The blade of a hardened phallus
Could not cut my pain and wrath
So I grew cruel and callous
To the women in my path.

I cheated on my wives
And let my children see
Trifling with other lives
Your own cannot be free.

I tried to make a mirror
Of the light in lovers' eyes
As I lay with them in fear or
Worried they might realize

That I was no one, really
But a little boy in pain
And all this touchy-feely
Was just another game.

For all the time I wasted
There is no recompense
Whatever love I tasted
Only pained my selfish sense.

To the women whom I married
And the women that I "saw"
I gave the grief I carried
Unconscious of God's law.

Till my dark and violent mother
Was murdered in her room
And the lies of this covert lover
Were revealed in the glare of noon.

In pain I faced my brother,
My daughter and my wife
My mother's Will uncovered
The avoidance in my life.

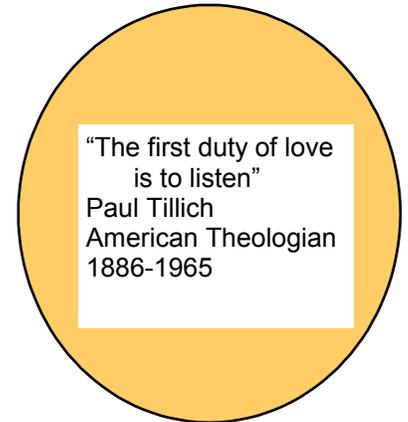
My reputation suffered,
My word—a worthless tool
My ego, no longer buffered,
Unwound on its paper spool.

My ways had come to curse me

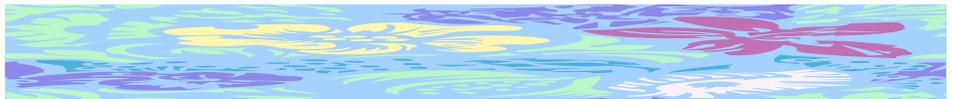
At the age of fifty-six
Only God's infinite mercy
My errant course could fix.

With Him I came to these rooms
Through Him I found a shrink
In Him began to fight the glooms
And fears in which we sink.

Now sitting with my fellows
Brings hope into my heart
As my addict wanes and mellows
I attempt an honest start.
PL



"The first duty of love
is to listen"
Paul Tillich
American Theologian
1886-1965



Rivulets...

Coming From?
Or
Going To?

A source and a result
Springing from within you.
An inner knowing of right and wrong
Giving guidance to weak and strong.

Rivulets, Coming from or Going to...
Many at once
A beginning blend
As they are followed
Become strong
A Creek to a stream to a river
Guided by its banks to discover
What's around the next bend.

Rivulets coming from or going to?
Form a lake or a pool
Cool thoughts coalesce
Truth revealed in ripples
Flow through me into you
Becoming more
Than a creek, stream, river, or lake.

Rivulets, coming from or going to?
Aging to torrents
Carrying all through
Out of control except
When in the flow
Choosing a channel
The choice is to grow

Understand the Torrent will end
There we will blend
Into a new beginning with hope and with
peace

From Rivulets to Oceans
It's all a stream of consciousness
Do we not belong in this dream?
One being a molecule
Taken throughout
To join the rest
Knowing we belong
Now there is now doubt

The answers are here
For those who want to know
An opportunity to discover and to grow
Beyond limitations of streamside banks
Situations to take in stride with thanks
Instead we listen now
To the noise that is gone
And in this Silence
Is a new dawn
A unity grows of heart and of mind.
Joined in principles
None are blind.

Rivulets...
Coming From?
Or
Going To?

Craig R.

ISO OF SAA BOARD ACTION CONTINUED

(Continued from page 3)

From a special vote held by telephone and e-mail between September 19 and September 25, 2001:

In response to a prolonged cash flow problem, the Board voted to take \$10,000 from Operational Reserves and place it in the ISO checking account for the purpose of paying overdue bills, payroll and payroll taxes.

From the teleconference held November 10, 2001:

Convention Committee

Budget The Board approved the Convention Committee Budget as amended, with a budget of \$2,500 authorized for taping equipment/contractor.

Convention Program - SAA Logo

Allowed the 2002 Convention Committee to use the SAA logo as pictured on the draft program cover. (Note: The logo representation is a reproduction of an SAA bronze medallion)

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the draft program cover. (Note: The logo representation is a reproduction of an SAA bronze medallion)

COSA Sponsored Social/Fee

Voted that, if COSA provides a flyer for a Friday night event, ISO will include it with its next and future mailings of convention information.

SAA/COSA Relationship

Accepted the following proposed SAA/COSA shared convention events:

Friday:

- a. Separate Opening Ceremonies
- b. COSA Hosted Snack Event

Saturday: Joint Event With Speakers From Both Fellowships

Sunday: a. COSA Hosted Event As Alternative To Tour

- b. COSA Hosted Candle Light Ceremony

Monday: a. Combined Brunch

- b. Separate Closings
- c. Final Joint Event

Adopted the following statement:

Bruce B. reported the Interfellowship

Relations Committee's work and received direction from the Board to bring the committee's recommendation to the Board in January in the form of a motion.

SAA Book

Extended the December 1, 2001, deadline for the second draft of the SAA Book to February 1, 2002.

Operational Reserve

Directed the ISO Office put \$5,000.00 back into the Operational Reserve at this time.

New OOC Member

Ratified Don K. as a member of the Office Oversight Committee for the remainder of 2001-2002.

Office Manager's Salary Adjustment

Raised the office manager's salary by \$1,200.00 a year, with the effective retroactive date of the adjustment being June 15 and with the January COLA adjustment being based on the adjusted amount.

PSA Production Bids

Directed the office manager to send a copy of the production bids to all Board members and to make this item a high priority in January.

Office Computer Systems

Adopted a proposal for switching of office computer equipment from Macintosh to personal computers, with implementation contingent on resources being available; voted to pay expenses related to the change out of capital reserves; voted to reimburse Jerry B. \$500.00 for his purchase of a monitor for the ISO Office.

The next meeting of the Board was confirmed as being a four-hour teleconference beginning at 9:00 a. m. (Central Time), Saturday, January 19, 2002.

LITCOM REPORT SAA BOOK UPDATE

FUTURE PBR EDITOR SOUGHT - APPLICATIONS BEING TAKEN Position open for June/July '02 PBR

The expected date for a second draft of the SAA book has been moved up a couple of months. As with any intensive literary project of length, the progress of the book is gradual, and subject to creative factors that are difficult to predict. It would appear, however, at this point, that the publication of the first fellowship edition of the book by the 2002 Convention is highly unlikely.

This was by no means unexpected, even from the very beginning of this project. Nor is it cause for discouragement. Our concern has always been with excellence, i.e. the production of a text that will serve our fellowship with a strong, readable message that will continue to be useful for years to come.

This, of course, takes time. And patience. The Literature Committee has many projects in hand during this time, certainly among the busiest in our history. They include the upcoming production of a Public Service Announcement, a more efficient approach to translating our literature into other languages, and more.

Due to the resignation of the current PBR Editor, Robert S., effective as of the production of the April/May 2002 issue of the PBR, the Literature Committee is now accepting applications for the position. According to the By-Laws of the ISO of SAA, it is the duty of the Literature Committee to recommend to the ISO Board, the name of the person they wish for the Editor position. The ISO Board then contracts with that individual for those services.

The forthcoming changes to the publishing of the PBR will bring changes to the duties of the selected Editor.

Heretofore, the Editor had to have a computer with selected publishing software, and in addition to the editorial functions in selecting and editing material for the publication, had to do all the design and layout as well as providing copy-ready pages to the ISO Office for printing and distribution. The Editor also

(Continued on page 8)

DAVE R. WRITES FROM TEXAS –

— SHARING FIRST STEPS WITH NEWCOMERS

When a newcomer arrives, a lot of groups have one or two people to take that newcomer aside. We have a different tradition in my home group. What we do it to have the whole group “12 step” the newcomer.

A while back, we noticed that a lot of people come into an SAA group and leave before they have had a chance to tell their story to anyone. It is common for someone to take months to get a sponsor and to leave before presenting their formal “first step” to the group. In some large groups, it is possible to go to a number of meetings without even saying a word.

In small groups, that is not possible. My home group was small

enough for a while that if we had two people take the newcomer out, there would be only one or two people left in the meeting room. So, instead of taking the person out, we took the opportunity to have everyone tell their story. What we found was that giving people the opportunity to tell their story provided for some good sharing. Sometimes, the person telling their story to the newcomer had been the newcomer one or two weeks prior. That has proven to be very powerful for the person telling. So, as the group grew, we kept the same process.

We found that giving people a chance to tell their story in 5-10 minute blocks offered them a way to ease into the process of working up

a formal “first step”. It does not eliminate the need for working a normal “first step”.

What I find, as a slightly more experienced member, is that my telling my story often keeps me humble. I remind my emotions of all the costs of the addiction. I recommend to people with any length of recovery to be in a small group and jointly “12 step” new members in.

We have had people object to this tradition. They have talked about wanting topic discussions. Sometimes, when it seems like every meeting for a month has a new person, I’ve gotten jaded on my own story. However, the practice has worked and worked well.

Dave R

It’s great to get a letter like this! Thanks Dave S., for these kind words !!

ISO of SAA,
I received my Oct-Nov “Rapper” today and it reminded me how much I depend on your materials and support in my recovery. With your support and participation in institution

Nov. 14, 2001

sponsored groups I have been sober for over three years.
I realize that I’m still unable to contribute to the group but I work hard to share the truth of recovery with other men. Some

day I hope to be released, but for now, thank you and Bless You for letting me be a part of the Fellowship.

Yours in Recovery,
Dave S.

THE OUTER CIRCLE

By Don B.

I have spent a lot of time looking at and tweaking my inner and middle circles, but one thing I know is that if I am spending time in my outer circles and getting my needs met there, I don’t really have to worry about my addict all that much. Here is my outer circle; this is what feeds me, how I take care of myself. It’s not as exciting as acting out, but there are more positive consequences. On a daily basis I try to contact someone in recovery, journal, exercise, eat healthy, floss my teeth, and play music. It is rare that I will do all of these things for more than a couple days at a time, but this program is about progress rather than perfection.

I like it that we use the word “play” when we describe the act of doing something musical. My addict can be compulsive even with something that is healthy and I have sometimes lost the play aspect with music. Lately, I have been playing music with some people in my neighborhood and it has been real nice. We get together and eat and play and eat and our kids play and we eat and we actually practice too. That reminds me, did you hear about the musician who won the lottery? He kept on gigging till the money ran out.

Anyway, I am grateful to be sober today. When I thought about how I did with my outer circle yester-

day, I first thought I was 0 for 6. Then I realized I had e-mailed someone in recovery and I went to the YWCA and even though I didn’t swim because I had a sore neck I did take care of myself by taking a nice whirlpool and sauna. So that makes me 2 for 6 and I can live with that.

Just for today I’m gonna live in my outer circle and I am excited to think about including more exciting stuff (like prayer, healthy sexuality, taking risks with my partner, and) in my outer circle.

I think for today

Don B.

The Greatest Denial Of All

By John C.

Probably everyone reading this knows the drill first-hand; "I'm not REALLY a sex addict."... "I'm not REALLY an alcoholic,"... "My gambling's not REALLY out of control." It's Recovery 101. And usually long before that 5th or 6th meeting that newcomers are encouraged to attend before deciding if the 12 Steps can help, the truth becomes clear. "Yeah, I'm an addict, and I want to get better." Then with some sobriety, the onion gets peeled, and more and more delusion gets revealed about how we'd been living our lives, and why we'd been living that way. Time passes, and our friends, family, therapist, and other addicts see one more denial that they wish we'd confront. But we don't. Because, like the untreated addict we once were, we THINK we see clearly.

We will admit, finally, everything to our therapist. To our group in a First Step or just in sharing, we'll tell every humiliating or shameful event. But without intending to, without realizing it, we're unable to see the greatest denial of all: our goodness.

In our newfound levels of responsibility, we'll take on our misdeeds; we'll shoulder our blame for break-ups, lost jobs - everything. But does this happen to you? Someone says to you, "You're really a good Dad," and your FIRST thought is all the reasons why you're NOT good? Someone notices you've been working out, and mentions how healthy you look - is "Ah, I only exercised twice last week," your first thought?

When a sponsee says, "You're so generous with your time to others in the program," do you deflect it and think about what you're NOT doing? That is denying your goodness. My perspective is

that there are two reasons for this.

1.) We have had faulty core beliefs about ourselves for so long, that it skews our ability to see our own goodness.

2.) Because of the grandiosity/worthlessness see-saw that many of us have ridden in our addiction, we falsely believe that any acknowledgement now about what is RIGHT and GOOD in ourselves will make us guilty of "not being humble".

I believe that what is called for in most of us is NOT a "good dose of humility". What is called for is letting out a good dose of our greatness. And when someone reveals his or her inner greatness, it isn't (properly) at the expense of someone else, and doesn't need to make someone else feel "lesser". (I know I've had a lot of fear around holding back in my life, not sticking my neck out, because I might be thought of as "conceited".)

But maybe it's time, now that we've revealed our lowest selves, to be willing to reveal- even if it's just our heart revealing it to our mind, at first - our highest self.

Marianne Williamson spoke about this in her book, A Return to Love. "It is our light, not our darkness, that frightens us. ... You are a child of God. Your playing small doesn't serve the world. There's nothing enlightened about shrinking so that others won't feel insecure around you. We are all meant to shine, as children do... And as we let our own light shine, we unconsciously give other people permission to do the same. As we are liberated from our own fear, our presence automatically liberates others."

That sounds true to me. Of course, the faulty "I'm a piece of trash" beliefs are strong. But you and I have .much goodness in us, much light. And when we let it out, it frees others and us.

John C.

[is a recovering sex addict.]

LIT COM
REPORT CONTINUED
SAA BOOK -
SEEK NEW PBR EDITOR
Continued from page 6

(Continued from page 6)

created a "pdf" [file] which is sent to the Webmaster for publication on the website.

As the Board has authorized new hardware and software for the ISO Office, and has made preparation for the addition of another person for the office, the duties of PBR production will be handled there. That eliminates the need for the Editor to have such hardware and software, as well as layout and design. Word processing software compatible with that of ISO will be needed, as well as e-mail capabilities.

It means the Editor will be only responsible for the Literature component of the PBR, and for editing submitted material, and for sending it to the ISO Office in such form and manner, and in appropriate time frames, so as to meet production schedules.

At this time there is no formal "job description." There are also no set contractual conditions set forth, except those with the existing Editor, which may, because of enumerated duties, be different. This includes payment for contracted services.

The Editor need not live in any particular community as long as communication with the Fellowship and the ISO Office can be maintained. The Editor will be automatically a voting member of the Literature Committee. You will have to meet the criteria for International Service which includes two [2] years of sobriety.

For anyone interested, you may submit your name by "snail mail" to the ISO Office to the attention of "Editor position." You may also use the ISO Office e-mail. See page 12 for both addresses.

You may also contact Chris D., Chair of the Literature Committee at his e-mail at cdash@mindspring.com. If you know your regional Literature Committee Representative, you may also give her/him your name. You will need to provide your full name and address, phone and e-mail. Your anonymity will be protected. +++



MORE - *Poetry*

AUGUST

August augurs auras and aureoles auriferous
 But today dawn is gray and songbirds merely cluck...
 Adrift, middle age astern, I fix Farmer's Market on my
 Astrolabe and bring the Japanese freighter to port in
 Fairfax parking lot.
 I'm here to meet my feedback group-Liferipe trio of twelve-steppers who put suffering in
 Perspective like Shakyamuni did for Shariputra
 But, this morning, one is sick and the others don't show
 So I take refuge in hotcakes, butter and treacle
 Whiling away precious time in vagrant thought:
 Mother dead, father dead, fifty years of fancy dancing
 Hovering in space when—boom!--God descends from
 The flies disguised as my wife, I'm caught with no
 Habeas corpus and all my tripe is hash...
 Hairy with sin, I shamble like a bear to a sanctified
 Cave near the tarpits of Olympus where confessors are
 Legion and something starts to fit which never fit before.
 Convicted, I grieve lost opportunities and a life of crescent
 Pain until my brain cools and—about-face!--I see Grace.
 PL, LA

Simple

"If you can do this simple plan..."
 I hear it twice a week.
 This program doesn't feel simple to me.
 I've led a double life, it seems, since I could barely speak.
 How simple, then, is total honesty!

I came from such a lonesome place
 of fear, regret and shame.
 'Til someone that I love confronted me.
 And love beyond my wildest dreams
 I found here when I came from those who shared their own recovery.

I'm learning now that on my own I'm powerless to cope
 For my addiction's far too strong for me.
 I have a higher power now, His care is now my hope
 I ask him daily for serenity.

I'm taking steps to be prepared to make amends and such
 compiling lists with brutal honesty.
 My moral inventory lists
 The folks I've hurt so much.
 Atop the list of those I've harmed is me!

Sometimes I wonder just how many
 go to twelve-step meets—How large a movement this program

*"The way you walk is thorny through no fault of your own. But as the rain enters the soil, the river enters the sea, so tears surround to a predestined end. Find peace for a moment my son."
 "Whoever is bitten by a werewolf and lives, becomes a werewolf himself."
 [The words of the Gypsy woman]*

Both the above – pages 23-24, [Draft-not NSO approved] Promises of Grace, NSO of SAA, 1992



IF YOU HAD ONE OF THESE IN A WELL PLACED SPOT, WOULD YOU???

It's not only a facetious question, but almost insulting perhaps. It may be an "attention-getter," or serve only to insult someone. But since it's the PBR Editor doing the writing, maybe you'll understand. Unless, or course, you don't know the PBR Editor that well.

You've heard the expression, "Light a fire under him/her, if you want anything done." Or, "Set a firecracker under him/her" for the same result.

The PBR's not blessed with an abundance of material, articles that is, of experience, strength and hope. Particularly YOURS.

We can always "make up something," but it's not as effective as your story, from wherever you are in your recovery process. Or even about your slips and relapses. I can assure you it will help someone. I was told one time that I could ALWAYS serve as a bad example, if nothing else.

How about it? Can't write? Someone in the group will help, even though most of us addicts don't know what it is to ask. Give it a try.

I'm waiting !!!
 Robert S., PBR Editor

**A FEW MEANDERINGS, SOME
REMINISCING...
FROM THE PBR EDITOR...**

There hasn't been an "editorial column" in the PBR as far as I know, but I have posted a few comments here and there in this missive over these last 4+ years.

As a part of my work in recovery, it is appropriate for me to examine, in the light of Step Four, my past. Not only my past BEFORE getting into SAA, but DURING my sojourn here.

As this is most often the month when the next SAA Convention is highlighted, it takes me back to some of those I attended, and all the who, what, where, why, when and how's of each. As I did some reflection this issue, my mind and computer took me back to exactly 9 years ago, and the SAA Convention I missed. On purpose.

I thought of this convention also during this year's gathering in Houston, when the "hat" story was told, about Kevin K's hat, and how the deficit of nearly \$4000 was made up during the collection in 1993. And how the hat was now enshrined forever as depicting that momentous event.

As I looked at all the correspondence still in my files, from the days of summer, 1992, soon after my election to the NSO Board, to the date of the 1993 convention, I see them as a painful part of my early recovery days. I say "early" even though I had been 3 years in the program, even sober, according my perspective of the conditions for national service. But these seemed unclear to a few others; that's why I was not there.

There's a lot of history within this organization, and much of it due to the painful struggle through some of whatever growth may now be within it. There were, and are still, times when "others" have to carry my load, since I was not, and am not, capable at a specific day and time. There are also others who I wonder about, and do not see, or hear from, or know of. And I fight the swelling of shame that begins to rise to the top, and hope so much, that they are well.

I do well then, to reflect on the likes of John C's article on page 8, realizing I cannot know what I don't know, cannot do what I cannot do, but knowing that I am what I am, and what I can be. And like Don C says on page 7, "I think for today." And remain, as much as possible, in that outer circle. RVS

Calling all Workshop Presenters to the 2002 Bridge to Freedom Convention

The Program Committee of the 2002 Bridge to Freedom Convention is seeking proposals for Workshops. Whether you have presented before or are considering this level of service for the first time, we warmly invite you to submit your proposal as soon as possible.

For those of us who have attended past conventions we know first hand the impact that a great workshop can have on our recovery. In addition we experience a boost to our own sobriety when we present a workshop on a topic that we feel passionate about.

The Program Committee is seeking varied workshop proposal topics including but not limited to:

- **The Steps**
- **Relapse Prevention**
- **The Tools of Recovery**
- **Prayer and Meditation**
- **Twelfth Step Work**
- **Sponsorship**
- **Healthy Sexuality**
- **And Others.**

We hope to include Panels on interesting topics as well. The best way to create a workshop topic is to think about what you feel passionate about in your SAA re-

covery.

The Program Committee will review all proposals and attempt to include them to the best of our ability. Workshop proposals will be evaluated on the basis of their adherence to The Twelve Traditions as well as their ability to add balance to the entire program. The ISO Board has created guidelines for Workshop Presenters suggesting that they have at least one year of abstinence from inner circle behaviors.

You can download an application form from the convention website [This website is ONLY available by way of the Registration Brochure !] or, they are available from the ISO office as well. In addition you should see the form mailed along with [not IN] your PBR in the near future.

We look forward to your proposals and to your attendance at the Convention.

In your Service

Frank B.
Program Chair

SAA 15th International Convention

Friday evening May 24
Through
Monday noon May 27



Bridge to Freedom

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Travel Rates

United Airlines-5-10% off published fares; 5% 60 day advance purchase.
Southwest Airlines-10% off most fares.
Avis Car-special rates

See registration brochure for numbers to call.

Convention

Highlights

The SAA International Convention attracts members from around the world. Your SAA friends from the [deleted for web copy] Area hope you will join us for a weekend of sharing, workshops, and entertainment!

Friday May 24

Convention Opening Celebration*
Keynote Speaker*

Saturday May 25

Workshops* (selected)
Panel Discussions* (selected)
Banquet*

Sunday May 26

Workshops* (selected)
Community bus tour & Dinner* (additional cost)

Monday May 27

Speaker and Closing Ceremony*
Brunch*

Other Convention Activities

24-hour meditation room*
24-hour marathon meetings
Hospitality Suite*
ISO Bookstore*
Talent Show*

* Open to adult paid guests of SAA Members.

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Single/Double-\$79/night
Triple-\$104—Quad-\$129
+10% Occupancy Tax
+ \$1.00/night Assessment Fee
Reservations must be made by May 10th to qualify for special convention rates !!!

EZ Registration !

Telephone[cc only]
1-800-477-8191

Mail:
DELETED FOR WEB COPY OF THE PBR—

For additional information:
Contact the ISO of SAA, see phone and address page 12.

Scholarships

A limited number of scholarships for registration fees are available on a first-come, first-served basis. Call the ISO Office for information-800-477-8191.

Board Actions

2002 SAA Convention—

From the teleconference held August 18, 2001:
Convention Open Events

The Board recommend the following convention events be open to paid adult guests: Friday Opening Events, Saturday Night Banquet, Saturday Night Events, Sunday Picnic, Talent Show, Hospitality Room, and Monday Closing

The Board approved a desired surplus of \$2,329.00 for the 2002 ISO Convention. The following fees were therefore established. [See table below]

Concerning a Convention Website, the Board approved a motion that the SAA Webmaster work with the 2002 ISO of SAA Convention Committee to design and maintain the Website, and that the website address be printed only in the Convention Registration Brochure and provided to SAA members upon registration.

SAA Members	Before March - 31	4/1— 4/30	After May 1
3 days-Sat-Sun-Mon	\$135.00	\$145.00	\$155.00
2 Days-Sat-Sun or Sun-Mon	\$115.00	\$125.00	\$135.00
One Day-Sat, Sun, or Mon	\$95.00	\$105.00	\$115.00
Adult Paid Guests			
3 Days-Sat-Sun-Mon	\$90.00	\$100.00	\$110.00
2 Days-Sat-Sun or Sun-Mon	\$70.00	\$80.00	\$90.00
One Day-Sat, Sun or Mon	\$50.00	\$60.00	\$70.00

Delegate Conference Please Note !!

- SAA members appointed by their home groups as delegates to the Conference should be on site Friday at 8:30 AM through Saturday noon. Delegates must register for this portion SEPARATELY through the ISO Office.
- Call 800-477-8191 between the hours of 10AM to 6PM CENTRAL time if you have questions about registration.

ISO INFORMATION

BOARD - LITERATURE COMMITTEE - OFFICE - STAFF - WEB - EMAIL

Area	Board	Liason Function	Board	Liason Function	Litcom	LitCom
Great Lakes	Roger B[chr]	Intergroup Communications	Ken S.	Intergroup Communications	Elizabeth S	Vic K.
South Pacific	Peter B[Sec]	International Development	Bill S.		Susan W.	Thom C.
At Large	Leo H.[Treas]	Oversight/Fund Raising	none		none	none
Inter-Mountain	Carolyn L.	Internet Serv/Internat. Dev.	Steve H.		Chris D	Kenton J.
North Central	Dave B.	Outreach	Lonnie S.		Jerry A	Dave B.
South East	Francie E.	Interfellowship Relations	Bruce B.	Fund Raising	Joseph T	Don C.
North Pacific	Frank B.	Outreach	Joel D.		John H.	Tom B.
South Central	Judy N.	Literature	Claude E.		Greg G.	Mike L.
North East	Joe M.	Prison Outreach	vacant		Tony Z.	vacant
					Robert S	n/a
					PBR	

Staff

Jerry B. Office Manager
 Klaus P. Asst Office Manager

Office Hours [Central time]
 [Staffed-M-F] 10:00 AM - 6:00 PM

Phone answered at all times except when staff is on the phone. Leave Message; call will be returned, usually within the hour.

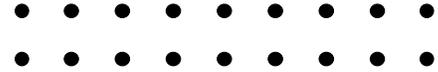
PHONE - ADDRESSES

713-869-4902
 1-800-477-8191

Office: International Service
 Organization of SAA, Inc.
 P.O. Box 70949
 Houston, TX 77270

WEB SITE - EMAIL ADDRESSES

web: <http://www.saa-recovery.org>
 e-mail: info@saa-recovery.org
 PBR: PBR@saa-recovery.org



WILL YOU PLEASE? Remember the needs of the SAA Fellowship at the international level? This newsletter was provided for you by those doing their own Step Twelve and Tradition Five work. And by one full time/one half time, paid staff member. There are important programs of outreach, many of which are represented in this publication. Outreach of all kinds, prison and all other. Materials are provided free to those who cannot afford them; i.e., prisoners. It costs dollars to maintain the central facility through which our efforts are maintained. For you who downloaded this, or have received it via "snail mail", we hope you will strongly consider sending your periodic contributions to the ISO office. **YOU** are the answer to total Outreach! Thanks !!

FROM TONY –
 Back in September, too late for the previous PBR, we received a couple letters from Tony. Tony has been a member of SAA since 1985! His boundaries are NO hard-core porn, no writing of porn, no "Playboy", strippers, or videos. His "YES" activities are to pray, meditate, watch TV, read/write [no porn], walk and eat out.
 He also wrote that he has a problem with the telephone. His

question is: Helpful or harmful?
 He related instances when he felt he has been hurt by the use of the telephone, by NOT by phone sex. That's not a problem with him. He felt that the group might be somewhat "forcing" as to the use of the phone when he would just rather come to the meetings.
 "SAA people have called me when they know I don't like to talk on the phone, and then are upset I won't talk to them," were his words.

His last paragraph sums up his thoughts about this particular issue, the telephone. He says:
"IF...the phone is Helpful, USE IT. It has been harmful to me. Don't call me. I'll see you at the meeting !!!!"
 And we at the PBR get the message, "Keep coming back, it works."

Now!! You can order materials and make donations, using your VISA, MC, Discovery or AMEX !!!! And ALSO – REGISTER AS A DELEGATE, AND/OR, AS AN ATTENDEE, FOR THE 2002 CONVENTION