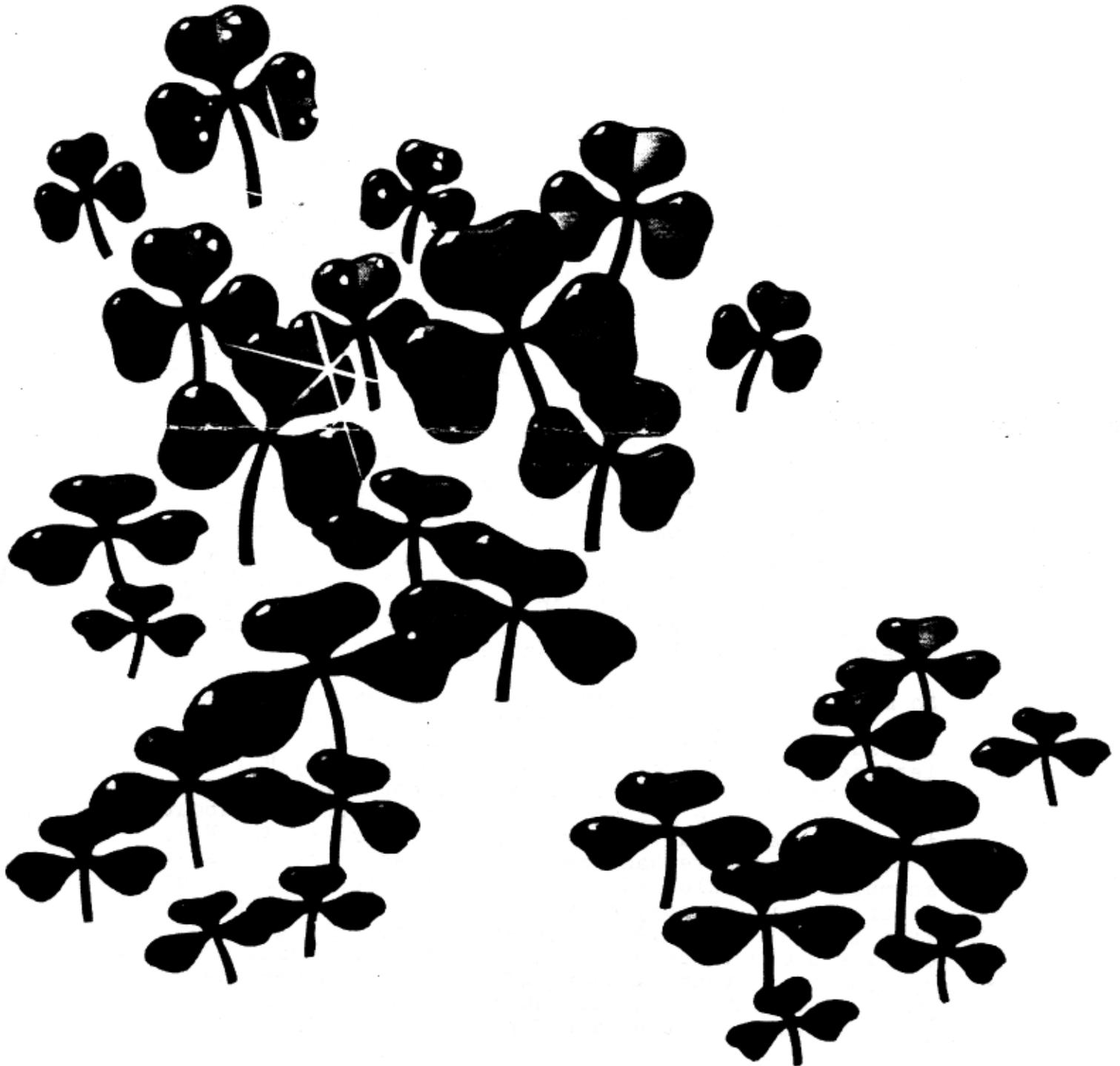


MID-AMERICA NEWSLETTER

Feb. = Mar. '88



Anonymity—a Way of Life

The word so many of us can't pronounce is a whole lot more than just using my last initial. It is a spiritual principle, synonymous with humility. Anonymity is where purity of motive belongs, the source of empathy and love. It's when I take one of my talents and use it for the fellowship, and they wonder, where did this come from, to whom does this belong, why was this done? Anonymity is when my god smiles upon me and I remain selfless.

Anonymity is a feeling inside me. When I break my back trying to run an H&I group, then one newcomer from that facility returns to meetings on the outside, my heart leaps for joy. When I realize I'm only one of many instruments which my God uses for N.A., I hug that newcomer.

Give, give and give, and when it hurts, give more. I have traveled far and wide taking addicts to meetings. They offer gas money, but anonymity for me is suggesting to them that there's only one way to repay me: One day just as I and those before me have done, take a newcomer to a meeting, no matter the distance, and make the same suggestion I have made. In my heart I remember when I was a newcomer, and I ask my God to stay near those who once did it for me.

Anonymity brings to light the fact that I am not just one individual person with a name. Every value, belief, thought and action was created in me. The person I am today is a multitude of addicts before me. If I wanted what they had, I did what they did. Today I see those results in my own life. Anonymity is never forgetting that the paved road I followed was also paved for those who taught me by those who went before them. And so we all in turn continue to lead, and continue to follow, serving as a continuing link to a family. It took a long time to finally understand the paradox of anonymity. It is true, no one addict or group of addicts will ever build my self-respect in the way my God does. There isn't a better feeling than only having his approval.

So many times I have been hurting for time and money when I've been asked to be of service to N.A. Anonymity is finding the time and money, no matter what. It is not letting the fellowship see that "I am too busy." I can always improvise. Even if I have to count pennies for gas, I will drive a newcomer and mention nothing about it. I have an advantage--a car. If it weren't for N.A. I never would have had one. My first year clean I saved as much as I could and paid cash for an old rusted out floorless, no brakes, no wiper or side-door jalopy. Even in that case N.A. was there for me. The guys came over, and one fixed my muffler, another my brakes, another my brakes, another my door. After all the hours the N.A. guys spent slaving on it, making it roadworthy, my only payment was to do the same for another--that's anonymity.

My first year clean I owned eight recovery texts! They kept disappearing. If an addict can't afford \$8.80 for a book an they need it, let's hope it keeps them clean. just buy another book. cont. next page.

If it weren't for N.A. I wouldn't have had my part-time minimum wage job to afford to buy another recovery text now and again. Then there's area and regional service. Trying to practice anonymity is a little harder there, but not impossible. As an ASC chair, I sometimes think my area, my sub-committees, my responsibility. "my" area doesn't belong to me, it belongs to us. And we belong to God.

My opinion is that Narcotics Anonymous saved my life, so I owe it my life. Maybe I'm a masochist, but there's no greater feeling in my life than the pain of exhaustion due to service work. I know in my heart that my God is pleased, and that's all that matters. No addict's approval could match his. I would like to say I practice humility as I understand it often. If I did it would be a lie. I work towards it, sometimes falteringly, but I try. Anonymity. The spiritual foundation. I finally found something I can believe in.

Reprinted from Nov. 87 NA Way



from the editor's kitchen table

Hello everyone,
Happy Valentines (belated) and St Pats. I am taking on the newsletter as of the end of Feb. My apologies for the lateness in getting this out. I didn't know that I would be doing anything besides reading this until the last part of Feb. I guess that just goes to show that the only sure thing in this program is that things will always change, sometimes in ways we don't expect. Many thanks for all who have kept this thing going until now. You have set a fine standard that I can only hope to continue. Please feel free to let me know if there are ways that I can better serve you. It's been a busy weekend, I just got back from Hays. The RSC went well, after taking care of business we settled down to a candle-light meeting and then danced til the wee hours. A good time was had by all. Upon returning to Wichita I talked to some folks who went up to Newton for an impromptu afternoon of kite flying, barbecue, ice cream, and lots of fellowship. Way to go people!!

On a more serious note it seems that this newsletter is the best kept secret in NA. Input and readership has dwindled to almost nothing. The question of whether or not we even wanted a newsletter was raised. Enough people thought it was important enough to continue and so it will. So please let a friend or two know about us and encourage input, I can't print what I don't have. I'm sure that together we can overcome all of the obstacles and put together a newsletter that will be an asset to all of us.

I would like to just take a minute to say that I look forward to getting to know each and every one of you through the course of the coming year. Also I hope you have as much pleasure reading this as I had putting it together.

In loving service
Dan C.

**Have You
Called An
N.A. Friend
Today?
If Not,
Why Not?**



"TOGETHER WE CAN"

Clean PERCEPTIONS

AN N.A. MEMBERS' PRAYER

Our Powerlessness
And Unmanageability;
Who art restoring
Us to Sanity,
"Higher Power"
(may) be Thy Name!
Our Decision made,
Turning will and lives
Over to the Care of God,
As we understand Him;
Give us this day,
Our Searching and Fearless,
Moral Inventory
Of ourselves
And admit us the exact
Nature of our wrongs
As we become
Willing to have
God remove our shortcomings.
Humbly lead us
Not into our
Character defects
And deliver us
Through making Amends
Without injury to others,
For Thine is
The Continuing Inventory
And the Promptly Admitting it
And Prayer
And Meditation
For only Thy will
And the Power to carry this out
As we practice these Principles
In All our Affairs
And carry this NA Message
To Addicts
Who still suffer
From addiction.

AMEN!

Reprinted from
Together We Can
Oct. 87

ROBERT M. MATHEWS, M.D.

R

RESPONSE TO ADVERSITY

When things are not going right
When you receive abuse
When tension mounts
When confronted with suffering and death
When you wish to weep
When you can't sleep

Then

Recognize your limitations
Admit your utter dependence on God
Realize the Lord will sustain you—
never deny you

Then

Place your adversity in His hands
Trust Him
Take courage
Meet each dawn with the knowledge
that the Lord walks with you and gives
you the strength to face the new day.

Do You Use Drugs Or Do Drugs Use You



Sometimes I feel a war inside of me.
Fighting a battle that lasts for eternity.
God is on oneside,
My disease on the other.
WHO'S GOING TO WIN?
Sometimes I wonder?

Sometimes I wish I was turned inside out.
But, then I couldn't feel what I'm all about.

God put me here for his own reason.
What it is? I've not gained the wisdom.
I know I must try according to his wishes.
Even though, my life is full of broken dishes.

I know I must live just for today
Not for tomorrow
Nor yesterday
For I'm an addict
With the disease of addiction.
What is life?
It's always been fiction.

I've stopped using drugs "One Day At A Time."
Life is getting clearer and so is my mind.

I know I must be honest.
For I don't want to die,
Like a seedless grape on a vine.

I must keep striving forward
My sights on my progress
For I know in this swamp
I cannot stop to rest.

I've contemplated using to escape myself.
I know I don't need it.
God's gifts have brought me help.

I have a program that deals with life.
It keeps me clean and sober.
What a miracle am I!

I'm learning to love and face my fears.
Sometimes on my knees with Alligator tears.

The carpet has holes in it next to my bed.
My knees still turn fluorescent red.
I'm living with my heart
Not with my head.

BRADLEY C.
JULY 1987

FOR THIS I KNOW
THERE IS LIFE
AND
THERE IS DEATH



A VIEW FROM ROOM #205

It's winter—looking out this window I see a tree—standing firmly rooted in the soil. Stripped, barren, helpless, blackened by the harshness of winter. Soon spring will come and bring the thawing this tree will blossom in the sun. By summer it will fully bloom. We will delight in its beauty and take pleasure in its shade.

In the winter I was stripped, barren, my soul blackened in my addictions. I became helpless. N.A. is my spring, little by little I am thawing, I begin to blossom as rays of knowledge and understanding bring light to my darkened soul. The rest of my life is summer. As I bloom fully in my recovery.

May people find delight in my company Just as they found disdain in the winter of my addictions.

Karen J.

May 87
Together we Can

NEWS!

CENTRAL KANSAS AREA-

Great Bend-New group started 12-16 @ 3106 Morton. This location is temporary it is held every week on Fri. 12 noon temporary GSR Gordon H. Hoisington-Our New Years went well. We voted on one candle-light mtng. per month, on one of our Monday mtngs, which one is still pending. Will be having a barn dance April 30th, which will also be Birthday night.

Newton-Area Birthday-nite was New Years Eve Glenda celebrated 9yrs and Arlen celebrated 2yrs. Thanks to all for the turnout and special thanks to the D.J. Allan C. Newton Womens-Desparately needs support.

Pratt-No mon. meeting due to some problems at C.D.U.

H&I-Larned, St Joseph Hosp. last Thur. of month 7.30. Hoisington, As needed basis. Hutch, KSIR Tue. 7PM clearance needed. Dodge City, New Chance second Sun. @ 7PM

WIGHITA METRO AREA-

P.I.-Speakers day at Derby High school went well.

Activities-Campout site to be Harvey county West park.

Sweetheart dance to be held

March 19 proceeds to go to MARC88

Central NA-Attendance is on the rise Sat. night speakers mtng.

Riverside hosp. in the basement

H.O.T.S.-Moved the meeting to 6:30 Fri.

ST Mary's-Folded, ask that they be removed from any meeting list.

Wichita Womens-Dropped step meeting temporarily. They are looking for a new meeting place.

Winfield NA-Lots of support from Ponca city, Ark city, Wellington, and Cedarvale. Dance went well 246 and New Dawn are now added to the meeting list.

P.I. will have a fundraiser to help pay for moving the helpline. Birthday night to be moved to 246 N. Emporia on the last Sat. of the month. Many thanks to New Connections for donating their meeting space. A separate checking account was opened for campout funds. Anita will be in charge of this. A motion was made to change the the name of the are to something that reflects the attendance at our area meetings. We seem to have grown beyond just Wichita. G.S.R.'s will come back next month with a group conscience on the matter. New A.S.R.-Brent K.-Alt-Kent W.

There are no written reports from other areas at this time. However Salina from the Unity area was selected as the site of our next convention.



Please submit minutes from your area if you have them so that I can provide a more detailed report next issue. Thanks.



DANCE

when?

March 12th. 88

7PM to 1AM

Plan C.
I - ROCK & ROLL

\$1.00
per person Cover

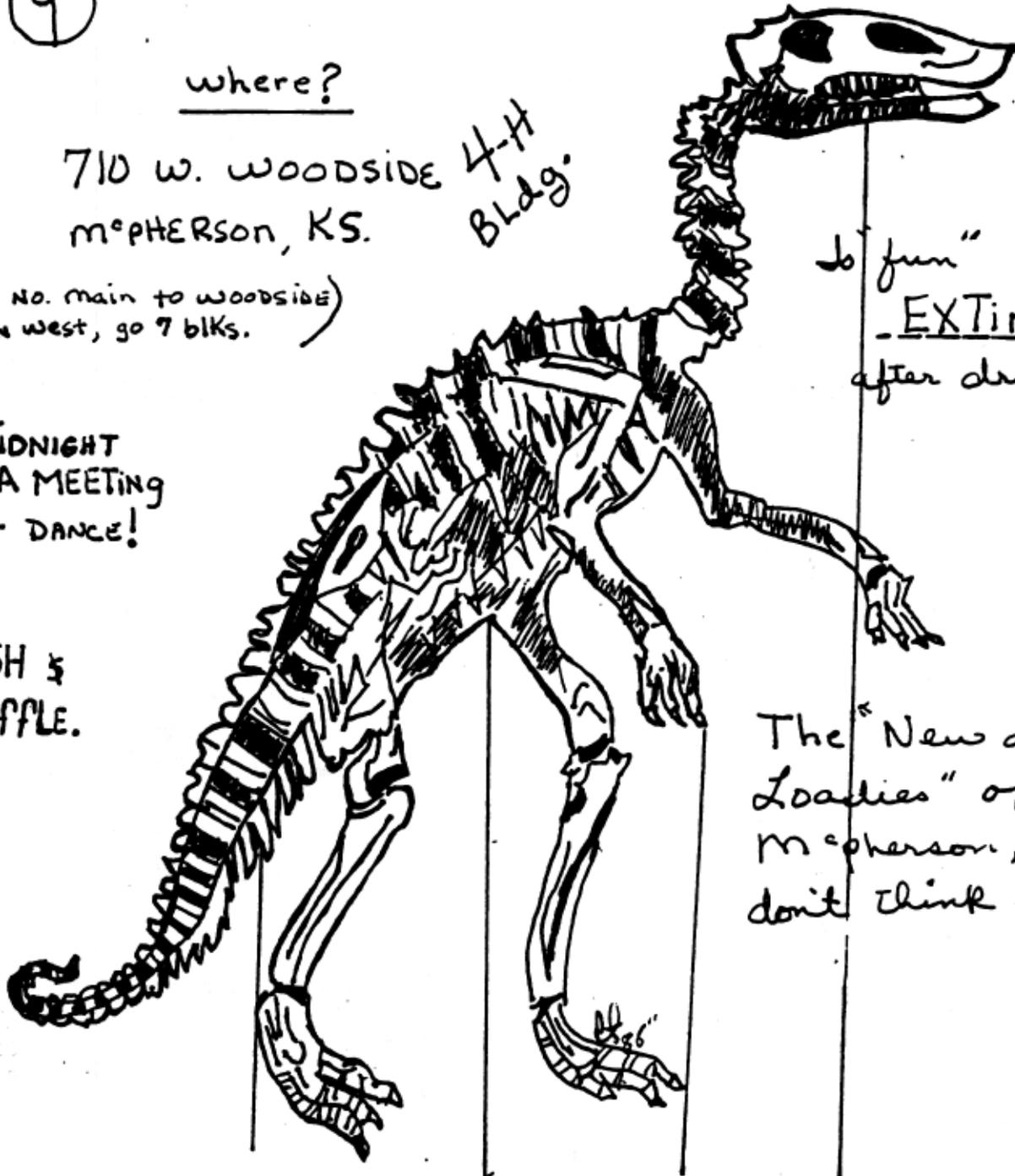
where?

710 W. WOODSIDE 4-H Bldg.
M^oPHERSON, KS.

Take No. main to woodside
Turn west, go 7 blks.

MIDNIGHT
NA MEETING
AFTER DANCE!

CASH &
RAFFLE.



So fun"
EXTINCT
after drugs?

The "New Life
Loadies" of
M^opherson, KS.
don't think so!

Come share in a clean experience. ♥