
ESSAY

August 1989

Simi Valley, CA

'DEAR ABBY' SPECIAL EDITION

On May 30, 1989, "Dear Abby" readers were advised: "...Sexaholics Anonymous is based on the principles of Alcoholics Anonymous, and all one needs is sincerity to make it work. There are no dues or fees. Interested parties should write to: Sexaholics Anonymous, Simi Valley, Calif.

On that same day, Roy appealed to the entire SA fellowship for funds desperately needed by the Central Office to meet printing costs of our new manual as well as added costs due to the anticipated avalanche of letters generated by the "Dear Abby" column. He said, "...I believe this is the first time the Central Office has ever made a special mailing to let our financial needs be known. I'm asking each group and member to do an Eleventh Step on this--*'for knowledge of His will for us and the power to carry that out'*--to see what you and your group can do for this our common task."

This "SPECIAL EDITION" of ESSAY is to share what transpired after the above two events. We are not printing any group or member news at this time. The ESSAY is simply one of gratitude. We should be so proud of this fellowship that responded with haste, love, and generosity to the needs of the Central Office.

We also want to share greetings received from our German members at their Karlsruhe Convention and excerpts from their newsletter.

NOTES FROM CENTRAL OFFICE

SA LOGO TRADEMARKED

We are asking that all groups and individuals note that the SA logo is now trademarked and is being registered with the U.S. Trademark Office in Washington, D.C. This move was necessitated by the fact that the SA logo was being picked up and misused (it actually appeared in a newspaper cartoon!). Also, some groups affiliated with other fellowships were beginning to use our logo. The new policy is that any groups or individuals wishing to use the SA logo in any form (note that the new book has it in an artistically rendered form) will need prior written permission from the Central Office. This includes any use of the logo on such things as meeting lists, convention and retreat flyers, etc. In this way, our logo is protected in the same way our registered copyrights protect the literature.

SA MEMBER STORIES

No more stories are being accepted. The extended deadline is now passed, and submitted stories are being processed in committee. Thanks to everyone for doing such a fine job! The stories will appear in a separate volume containing only stories. This should be out in a couple of months.

EXCERPTS FROM A FEW OF THE 1500+ "DEAR ABBY" LETTERS

"After reading a recent 'Dear Abby' column, I was stunned to realize that the 'sex addict' portrayed almost chronicled my own troubled existence. Although married and a father, I find myself constantly struggling to come to grips with my almost insatiable desire--achieving masturbatorial release with all forms of pornography--video--pictorial and the written word....Please consider this perverse preamble as my cry for help to forever wipe myself clean of these unnatural yearnings."

Richardson, TX: "Like many others (I'm sure) I got this info from "Dear Abby". I've suffered far too many years from the guilt and burdens due to 'lust' and, sadly, have not been able to totally share this with anyone. If this organization can help, I would be ever grateful....Thanks, and I praise you for your efforts. I am 45, a relatively successful business man and married with two wonderful children."

Oakland, CA: "I just read about your organization in 'Dear Abby'. Thank GOD someone like you exists!"

Cincinnati, OH: "I need the help of SA very much. Please let me know if you have a chapter in Cincinnati. Needless to say--but I will admit--I need the assistance as I'm in trouble with my habit. I realize you will be very busy after having national exposure to your address, but I'm writing because I really want the help and I've been seeking you for sometime."

Los Angeles, CA: "I am 77 years old, still sexually active, and married to the same lady for 53 years; we are great-grandparents. I wish there was a program like SA years ago. Although I believe I have control of my sexual activity at the present time, there are many questions in the "Test Yourself" test that I did relate to. Also I wish I had the answers to those questions. And maybe I have some input that might be beneficial to others."

ETSU, TN: "Thank God! My name is T.A. and I contacted SA over a year ago for help. I bought a big white book and was sent the name of a sponsor. The sponsor and I were never able to make contact. We are several hundred miles apart. There is no SA organization here in my immediate area. I was so inspired by your literature that I started on a recovery program depending on myself. For seven wonderful months, I was sober. I avoided television like it was the plague. I memorized a hymn, *All Hail The Power of Jesus' Name*, and experienced a glorious time of sobriety. I was delivered and felt really good about myself.
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I made the Dean's List in school. I started teaching Sunday school. I spread myself very thin and the pressure started; things, people, and places started closing in on me.

"The start of my fall began when I made the Dean's List and everything was going great. I still remember that day. I had a tremendous exuberant feeling. School was out. I had paid the price and won my reward. I decided I deserved a break so I got a bag of popcorn and went down to the TV room in the facility where I used to live. They have the HBO channel there but what the heck, I've been clean for 7 months. I mean, I deserve a break, I can handle it. Since then I have realized highs for me can be just as dangerous as the lows.

"I started back into my old habits and just now came to my senses upon reading "Dear Abby". I had been withdrawing into my world with rental movies, jeopardizing everything I have worked so hard for in the past four years. In the past month I have probably spent at least \$100.00 on rental movies. I was becoming entirely absorbed in the fantasy world at the expense of my physical health, mental health, and my academic life....I don't see how I have any other choice but to try. I must get involved for purely selfish reasons of to stay sober, to stay sane...."

New York, NY: "I am addicted to anonymous sexual activity. I cannot control myself and need help."

Newark, DE: "I saw an article in the "Dear Abby" column about your program. I'm a married 30-year old man with more than a preoccupation with sex. I'm obsessed with it.

I need sex constantly. I'm told that I'm a cold person who doesn't care where I get it or whose feelings I hurt. I must have had a thousand women and I'm working on my second. Can you help me?"

RESPONSES TO THE CENTRAL OFFICE PLEA FOR FINANCIAL HELP

Portland, OR: A special thank you to this group for calling the Central Office the day after "Dear Abby" to give us the number of their answering service for use in the anticipated flood of letters. We appreciate this responsible act.

Chanute, KS: "We just receive yor urgent letter. Our group is small with only three members. We are sending our entire treasury for your needs." **B.S.**

Syracuse, NY: "Please accept this gift from a Syracuse member. Our prayers are with you. The message of hope and recovery must be known and told. Stay with it. God Bless!" **J.B.**

Green Bay, WI: "SA helped me when I found the address in "Dear Abby." (some years back). Enclosd is a check which may help in the many replies." **S.S.**

Seattle, WA: "Just received your "Dear Abby" bulletin today, and it struck me that this was a perfect time to write to you. First off, thanks in part to you who have gone before and the 12-Step program of AA. I have been blessed with 119 continuous days of sobriety! Yeah! (But, I've been attending meetings since September 1988.) **J.H.**

San Pedro, CA: "The \$50.00 check is a personal contribution from my wife and myself to assist SA in responding to the "Dear Abby" letters." **R.W.**

Milwaukee, WI: "I understand that you have made an appeal for support in order to respond to a great deal of mail following the "Dear Abby" mention and also because of printing costs for the new Big Book. More than ever, I thank God every day for this fellowship and for the sanity and freedom it has brought.
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I am so grateful for all of you and for your presence in my life and for your commitment." **R.T.**

Arroyo Grande, CA: "Here's a little something that I would hope to relieve some of the financial burdens our office might have. My prayers are certainly with the office as we venture forth in a new transition." **R.G.**

Selma, CA: "This is our contribution for the printing of our white book. We are at this point, a small group of men in Fresno, who are grateful for what this program is doing in our lives and want to participate in helping with the expenses for additional white books needed." **A.M.**

Northglenn, CO: "Please find enclosed a \$100.00 donation form **Westminster** groups. Thank God for the love and blessings that these members responded with in response to Roy K.'s letter asking for help. We are very pleased and honored to help out with such a worthy request. We are continuing to collect extra contributions at each meeting in order to help SA Central Office in this time of need. Our love and prayers go with you in this endeavor. May God's love, blessings, and good will be with each and everyone of SA's members." **W.K.**

Tucker, AR: "I know the needs of publishing and distribution are costly, but with us being in the Department of corrections, it is impossible for us to send any funds, but our prayers go with you that you meet your needs..." **Seekers of Sobriety**

San Diego, CA: "Thanks for talking today about what's happening at Central, especially in regards to the new book and the result of the "Dear Abby" article. Enclosed is \$100.00 from a very grateful and recovering group of men. As a group, we don't have a great deal of time in sobriety, but I doubt if there is a bunch more dedicated to the program." **G.A.**

Chicago, IL: "Enclosed is a check from a Chicago group. We have about 8-12 members who gather each week. This check comes from a group conscience to send our treasury to you to support printing/communications costs. Individual members have been asked to send personal contributions as they are able." **B.T.**

Toronto, OH: "This is from the **Bethlehem, WV** Tuesday night group. Please use this for materials so that others may benefit from our wonderful program." **M.S.**

Boulder, CO: "Here are a couple of checks. This includes \$21.50, our regular contribution of the month of June. The total also includes another \$48.00 we contributed for the new printing. We hope it helps out some." **S.K.**

Newton, KS: "We received your URGENT announcement. We have been planning to send you a supporting contribution for a while now and have decided to catch up with the payments." **K.**

Fairport, NY: "Enclosed please find a check for the amount of \$50.00 as as donation to offset the rush of inquiries resulting from the recent ads for the program. Two days ago, I was in the office of a psychologist on a 12th Step call and saw a framed saying on his desk which read as follows: 'God writes straight with crooked lines.' It is so plain to me that the best way according to me only creates chaos in the end but God's way seems like chaos beforehand but ends up the best way in the end. I know that He is in charge..." **D.G.**

NY: "I've been hearing about how SA needs extra funding, especially now when much money needs to be laid out for the publication of our first book on the professional level. I'm a little late with my special donation, sorry. Procrastination is one of my character defects. Someday I'll be able to work on that one-'progress, not perfection'! I'm enclosing a check represent
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-ing *one month of acting out!!* I've sort of itemized my scene, from a financial perspective:

- * 3 admissions to the baths
- * 3 porno flicks
- * many quarters for peep shows
- * 4 tanks of gas for cruising
- * 2 'erotic' books and sex guides

Please accept this check for \$116.00 for Central Office--from a man filled with gratitude that he doesn't have to do the above anymore. God has done this for me--the Fellowship has shown me this God." **G.B.**

Baltimore, Washinton Intergroup: "In response to your call for help, we have voted to release our Intergroup funds to support SA at this time of need. We love you and wish you well--in sobriety." **J.K.**

MILWAUKEE CONVENTION

“I didn’t want any more time to pass before sharing a little about the wonderful experience I had at the Milwaukee Conference. It was an event of peace and serenity for me and I really felt the presence of my Higher Power there. I was reminded once again about my first SA meeting and how it was at the time. I realized a miracle was worked in my life in the answer to my prayer for help. I need to hear the deep honesty such as I heard there to keep my pride from dominating. I hated to leave but I did go away with a new charge of program energy I hope to use in fulfillment of my responsibility to help another sex drunk.

My deepest thanks to God for empowering the great Milwaukee group and their willingness to cooperate to make this one of the best conferences I have attended.” **D.G. of New York**

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