

The SCANNER

SCA NEWSLETTER

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SECOND QUARTER, 1993

THE SEEDS OF CHANGE - A NEW BEGINNING

Each of us has within us the seeds to change our lives - to rid ourselves of our illness and to make a truly new beginning. No matter how deep those seeds are buried or how much garbage is piled over them, in the warmth and light of the Program and our Higher Power they will grow and flourish and bloom.



EACH STEP HOLDS A BLESSING....

By Steve W. - San Diego SCA

My name is Steve and I am a sex addict. I am recovering in San Diego using the Twelve Steps of SCA, the support of my friends in the Fellowship and by the grace of God.

I compromised many values in my disease. I compromised my self-respect by having hundreds of sexual encounters with people I would not normally associate with, people I was not aroused by, or people I pleased without receiving any pleasure myself. I compromised my self-respect by having sex in filthy public restrooms, behind bushes in public parks, in old, dirty hotels and outdoors in cars. I finally lost my self-respect through the desperate nature of my need for sex at all costs that drove me to abandon responsibilities for sex, to abandon my safety for sex, and to finally abandon myself as well.

I compromised my safety by having sex with complete strangers, allowing them to take me into their cars and houses, and by making uninvited sexual advances to people I assumed were Gay or interested, barely escaping being beaten several times.

I compromised jobs by driving to acting-out places on lunch breaks, losing track of time and showing up late with a lot of explaining to do. Once, while using the company truck to cruise, someone saw the phone number on it and called my employer asking if the truck had been stolen, for they saw it driving around and around. I was lucky not to have been fired.

I compromised relationships by cheating on my lovers, driven by an urge I couldn't control. Even though the sex in my relationships was wonderful, I couldn't stop cruising and acting-out on the side. This hurt my lovers badly and deeply harmed the relationships. I always wanted more sex than I got from my lovers, and yet at the same time I hated myself for feeling this way, because I wanted so desperately to remain true to them.

I compromised my honesty by lying pathologically to my lovers about cheating, lying to tricks about my positive HIV status, lying to friends about where I spent so much time and lying to myself about the destructiveness of my behaviors.

My self-esteem was compromised as I gradually realized I wasn't having sex for fun anymore, but was instead being driven by an urge I couldn't control, and as I failed in attempt after attempt to stay out of parks and restrooms, and as I kept finding myself in yet another degrading sex situation, I began feeling worse and worse about myself. My self-esteem vanished.

I compromised healthy sexual expression, watching it change from a loving act I shared
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LEGO and PIECES

WHAT'S GOING ON IN SCA GROUPS AND INTERGROUPS...

A LETTER FROM LONDON....

JEFF C. wrote us from LONDON, ENGLAND, recently to say that "SCA in London has been going very well. Our Sunday meeting is still meeting weekly and we've been lucky that we've been able to meet all over the holiday period. We have around 18 or more people regularly, and a few of these are newcomers who find out about us through our listings in "Time Out" and the gay press. Unfortunately the newcomers don't always come back, but of course we will be there when they need us again. The meeting format is basically a carbon copy (with a few of our own additions) of the Tuesday night West Hollywood meeting and is working well - although British reserve wasn't able to incorporate applause after each contribution - we just say "thanks." "I handed on the Secretary's duties to David M. after a six-month stint, although my service hasn't stopped there, because I've taken on the setting up of a mail box and a phone line so that the outside world can contact us." "A couple of us are hoping to start a new meeting soon on Saturdays - a recovery plan workshop with chips like the Silverlake Thursday evening meeting... Both of us, at different times, attended that meeting and thought it was great." The mailing address of the group is SCA London, BM SCA, London, WC1N 3XX, England. Its 24-hour phone (record and call back) is 081-914 7599. If any of you are in London on your travels, drop in on a meeting or give them a call. Thanks, Jeff, for your letter and for the information. Keep up the great

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EYEBALLING THE ISO

ISO CONVENES IN CHICAGO by M.K., Los Angeles SCA

The Chicago Intergroup hosted this year's ISO meeting on the weekend of February 5-7, 1993. This is the first time the ISO meeting was held beyond the previous Los Angeles and New York sites. It is a testament to SCA's growth that a new city was able to host this meeting. Joe P. and the many members of the Chicago Intergroup are to be commended for their hospitality and organizational efforts in making all the arrangements. Particularly gratifying to the veteran ISO Reps, was the enthusiasm and initiative of how SCA is evolving and growing in Chicagoland where there are currently seven SCA meetings.

For those unfamiliar with ISO, the following is a brief explanation. ISO - International Service Organization - is comprised of Representatives selected by an intergroup or individual meetings to represent the group conscience. ISO focuses on issues that involve the SCA Fellowship as a whole. A concrete example is the SCA conference-approved literature that ISO publishes. Other issues are discussed below.

We began the meeting informally on Friday night, with a pot luck dinner at Joe P.'s residence. This gave a chance for ISO members to meet each other, as well as the Chicagoland SCA members. Then, on Saturday morning, we began with the more formal ISO agenda. There were 16 Representatives from New York, Chicago, St. Louis, Milwaukee and Los Angeles. Traditionally, we began with personal introductions and then regional updates. Micael R. was ratified as the new ISO Treasurer, even though he could not attend this meeting. We approved the Treasurer's report; sufficient money being available to publish a new piece of literature and the second edition of the Little Blue Book.

During the regional updates, we discovered how SCA is growing. In new areas where SCA is young, the concern is that there are few members with any long term sobriety. This seems to be typical wherever meetings are in the beginning stages. In the more established cities like New York and Los Angeles, new special emphasis meetings are emerging, such as meetings for long term sobriety, Spanish speaking meetings, and focus meetings on those dealing with incest issues.

Brian K., from New York, previewed a PSA - public service announcement - tape that he created which could be aired on the radio. We discussed the text and provided feedback on the announcer's reading. This tape will be produced and then made available to intergroups to use in their outreach through their local radio stations. The price is yet to be determined, but should be in the \$15 to \$20 range.

We discussed the ISO By-laws regarding membership and voting. We finally reached consensus that as we had decided previously, each SCA meeting has one vote in ISO. That meeting can vote directly by sending a Representative, or vote through a Representative who represents several meetings via an intergroup. But rather than passing measures based on a simple majority, we decided to determine passage by a 2/3 majority. We believe that this is a better process of reflecting "group conscience."

We continued our discussion of how do we present or identify ourselves among the other sexual addiction recovery programs. SCA's history has been that it emerged out of the gay male community. In many regions SCA meetings begin even though there are SAA, SA and SLAA meetings. Many SCA members feel that there is a special need for a "gay" meeting or program. Yet many members also feel that this can be divisive and perceived as exclusionary, contrary to the principles of recovery and unity. This was evidenced by the expressed concerns of certain women SCA members in New York. This is an ongoing issue within SCA that will continue to be discussed. All representatives were in agreement that the SCA identity definition was for referral purposes only. We are all committed to furthering our unity with the other sexual addiction recovery programs.

Currently, there is no official interfellowship meeting planned. Regionally, there seems to be more cross-program interaction; members attending more than one program's meetings. We feel that this will foster more interfellowship dialogue and unity. In Chicago, all the programs share a common meeting directory. That directory lists all the meetings for SA, SAA, SCA, SLAA, COSAA, S-ANON & RCA.

In discussing the SCA identity and interfellowship, we decided to pursue a more formal contact with the National Council on Sex Addiction. We want to model on AA's relationship with the National Council on Alcoholism. The California chapter of the Council is sponsoring a conference [see accompanying article], and has the support of, and will feature members from SA, SAA, SCA and SLAA. It may be a good vehicle for fostering interfellowship unity.

We discussed "The SCanner", commending Richard K. for his tireless work on this effort. Richard needs more SCA Stories to feature. These stories will be saved for future use in the proposed SCA book of stories. In discussing the stories, it was suggested that an editorial policy is necessary. The emphasis needs to be on recovery. This will also be necessary in developing the SCA book of recovery stories.

This led to a general discussion on the development of literature. There is a need for guidelines for literature development. Two items were submitted to ISO and both were a very close adaptation of AA material. We agreed that it is time for SCA to develop its own literature. We value and seek to follow AA's traditions, but in actually writing literature we agreed not to adapt or paraphrase AA or other 12-Step program literature in future ISO-approved publications.

SCA's "Questions and Answers for Newcomers" will be published soon. George M., from San Diego, is translating the SCA literature into Spanish. This will be published once it is complete. The group guide and the long form of the twelve traditions were recommended for revisions more reflective of SCA and eliminating the parts that were a direct adaptation of the AA literature on the same issue.

All of this may not seem like much. But these issues all demanded much discussion. Trying to ascertain the group conscience for the SCA Fellowship, above personal agendas, is a time consuming process. In our meeting, it is a constant process of maintaining "principles over personalities." It is a credit to the ISO Representatives that with each convening we come closer to actualizing this reality.



For information on SCA meetings, or listing a new meeting, write to:

SCA New York, PO Box 1585 Old Chelsea Station, New York, NY 10113-0935, or SCA Southern California, 4470-107 Sunset Blvd., #520, Los Angeles, CA 90027, or call the New York Information line.

SCA INFORMATION LINES (recorded message and call-back):

New York (212) 439-1123
Los Angeles (310) 859-5585
Chicago (312) 589-5856
Orange County, CA (714) 664-5105
San Diego, CA - new (619) 685-8540
Odessa, TX (915) 560-5240
Milwaukee, WI (414) 963-1189
St. Louise, MO (314) 921-6272

For information on SLAA and SAA meetings in the US and overseas, write to:

SLAA, PO Box 119, New Town Branch, Boston, MA 02258;
Phone (617) 332-1845
SAA, PO Box 3038, Minneapolis, MN 55403;
Phone (612) 339-0217

SEXUAL RECOVERY MOVEMENT "COMES OF AGE" AT JOINT CONFERENCE

By Peter C., Los Angeles SCA

The National Council on Sex Addiction (NCSA) hosted a Conference in Anaheim, CA, April 2-4, which brought together the entire sexual recovery movement. The event was organized by a coalition of therapists, clergy, treatment centers, recovery bookstores, law enforcement, AIDS organizations, and individuals from Sexual Compulsives Anonymous (SCA), Sexaholics Anonymous (SA), Sex Addicts Anonymous (SAA), Sex & Love Addicts Anonymous (SLAA), S-ANON, Codependents of Sex Addicts Anonymous (COSA), Recovering Couples Anonymous, Avoidance Addicts & Love Addicts Anonymous, and Prostitutes Anonymous.

The Conference attracted nearly 1,400 people including about 500 therapists and over 800 recovering individuals. Many members of SCA attended the various workshops and numerous SCA members helped out with the organization chores.

Friday evening addressed "Sexual Abuse" with Claudia Black, PhD, talking about sexual trauma and a panel of recovering individuals from SA, SAA, SCA, and SLAA sharing their experience, strength and hope. Afterwards, both Black and the panel fielded questions from the audience about how healing from sexual abuse affected their recovery from sex and love addiction.

Saturday morning addressed "Sobriety & Sexual Addiction" with Terry Kellogg, CCDP, speaking about sobriety and sexual addiction, while Pia Mellody, RN/CAC, discussed sobriety and spirituality. At noon, a luncheon panel of recovering individuals from SA, SAA, SCA and SLAA, with over 20 years of combined sobriety, shared their personal stories about powerlessness, recovery plans, sponsorship and working the Steps.

Saturday afternoon focused on "Recovery & Sexual Addiction" featuring Stephanie Covington, PhD, speaking about integrating healthy sexuality back into one's life, while Patrick Carnes, PhD, chronicled the history of and healing in the sexual recovery movement. Carnes' closing remarks about the growth of the Twelve Step programs and the "coming of age" of the sexual recovery movement were greeted with a standing ovation from the crowd of over 1,200 participants. Following Dr. Carnes, there was a combined Twelve Step meeting with members of every fellowship sharing about their personal recovery and the similarities between the various programs.

Sunday morning addressed "Love Addiction" with Pia Mellody speaking on intimacy and committed relationships. Included was a panel of recovering love addicts from SA, SAA, SCA, SLAA and COSA, who shared their personal histories and discussed various aspects of relationships in recovery including withdrawal, dating, communication and intimacy.

At the Conference, several "firsts" were achieved for the sexual recovery movement and the Twelve Step community in particular:

This was the first time that recovering individuals from every related Twelve Step

program participated in a major conference. It reduced the emotional distance between the various fellowships and dispelled many of the stereotypes that we hold about each other. For SCA members, it allayed our "heterophobia" and emphasized that straight or gay, we all suffer from the same disease. We learned that although our acting-out activities may differ, our feelings, our recovery, and our spirituality are virtually identical.

This was the first time that healing institutions serving the sexual recovery community were brought together under one roof as colleagues rather than competitors. Several agreements were reached between the major hospitals with sexual addiction and abuse programs to share their insights about treating sexual compulsion and cooperate in developing effective aftercare.

This was the first time that healing professionals from all areas of the therapeutic community converged in significant numbers to educate themselves about sexual addiction. A network of doctors and therapists was formed to assist clients in locating both professional and Twelve Step resources. An outreach program was formed to actively educate the remainder of the mental health profession in Southern California.

This was the first time that the alcohol/chemical dependency community acknowledged sexual compulsion as a valid addiction and a major contributor to relapse. Representatives from several of the largest treatment facilities in the Los Angeles/Orange County region agreed to start assessing clients for sexual compulsion, integrate a sexual addiction track into their programs and actively refer clients to the Twelve Step community for aftercare.

This was the first time that major religious organizations recognized sexual addiction as a significant problem for their clergy and their members. Both the Catholic Diocese of Los Angeles and the Episcopal Diocese of Orange distributed information to nearly 3,000 churches throughout the Southland. An outreach program was organized at the Conference to educate clergy about sexual addiction and to promote awareness of available Twelve Step resources.

This was the first time that the HIV/AIDS community and the sexual recovery community came together to coordinate their efforts. Several of the largest AIDS organizations attended the Conference, exposing many participants to their first accurate information about living in recovery with HIV. An outreach program was established to train therapists and volunteers serving the AIDS community about sexual addiction. The AIDS organizations agreed to cooperate in educating the professionals, clergy and institutions that serve the sexually addicted.

This was the first time that representatives from the legal system agreed to officially interpret sexual offenses as an addiction to be treated rather than a violation to be punished. A committee was formed among members of the Los Angeles District Attorney's Office, the Los

Angeles City Council, the Los Angeles County Courts, the California Association of Certified Addiction Counselors and the Gay and Lesbian Police Advisory Task Force, to establish a legal diversionary program for sexual offenders. Participants would attend mandatory counseling and Twelve Step meetings, thereby removing a lewd conduct arrest from their records.

Numerous members of SCA participated in producing a successful conference. Peter C. chaired the Conference. Laura R. coordinated the recovery panels and facilitated their discussions. Rob W., Glen M. and Greg C. arranged the Continuing Education Units. Gary S. managed logistics and coordinated over 30 volunteers, including Nicholas and Tim S. Debra S. collated registration packets. Ray K., George M., and Glen M. spoke on the recovery panels.

Many members of SCA helped with outreach. Jimmy G., John F., Jim H. and Steve B. covered Los Angeles. Alan M. and Rob P. handled Orange County. Richard W. and George M. covered San Diego, while John M. and John P. took care of Long Beach and Bob L. covered Central California. Michael L. coordinated meeting facilities and Michel C. helped with recovery bookstores. Glen M. and Stuart A. covered the AIDS community, while Marshall L. handled the lewd conduct attorneys. Richard K. wrote editorial coverage for "The Scanner."

All of the outreach programs established at the Conference need recovering individuals to share their experience, strength and hope. In addition, many participants expressed a desire to organize a joint Twelve Step Conference among our various fellowships. If you have an interest in carrying the message to healers, hospitals and institutions or participating in organizing the first ever Inter-Fellowship Conference in 1994, give Peter C. a call at 213/461-2464.

THE SCANNER IS YOUR NEWSLETTER

The SCanner is published and distributed quarterly by the International Service Organization of SCA as a means toward unifying the Fellowship and getting the SCA word out. The opinions expressed here are of those who made them and do not necessarily reflect the principles and traditions of SCA. Take what you like and leave the rest.

The SCanner depends on the input of the SCA membership to provide a meaningful means of communication and support within the Fellowship. We need your help. We need your recovery stories, news of your groups, comments and criticisms.

Please send your submissions to: "THE SCANNER", c/o SCA, P.O. Box 13551, San Luis Obispo, CA 93406-3551. Don't worry about fancy typing; just so it's readable — and from the heart! Your anonymity is assured. The SCanner is YOUR newsletter — dedicated toward promoting the common welfare and unity of SCA and getting the word out. Thank you for your support over the past years.

SCA/SCA-ANON'S 7TH ANNUAL NEW YORK CONFERENCE "AWAKENING TO OUR HEALTHY SEXUALITY" MAY GATHERING CELEBRATES SCA'S 11TH ANNIVERSARY

Having experienced a decade of light through the SCA Program, it's time to move on ahead. "I've stopped acting out - now what?" It's time to awaken to our new-found, healthy sexuality! That's what. Thus the theme of this year's New York Conference - Awakening to Our Healthy Sexuality - taking place May 21-23 at The Center, 208 West 13th Street, in Manhattan.

After the Friday evening opening featuring introductions, a female and male speaker from SCA and a speaker from SCA-Anon, open sharing and refreshments, the attendees get down to serious business all day Saturday. SIXTEEN workshops, offering something very meaningful for everyone, are scheduled, including:

**ASKING FOR HELP;
MASTURBATION;
SEX AND A SENSE OF HUMOR;
CREATIVITY AND RECOVERY;
PROGRESS, NOT PERFECTION;
HIV AND RECOVERY;
BISEXUALITY;
HOMOPHOBIA;
BEYOND THE SEARCH FOR MOMMY AND DADDY;
DEFINING THE COLOR OF OUR GRAY AREAS (The "Fuzzy" parts of our recovery plan);
CELIBACY VS. ANOROXIA VS. ABSTINENCE;
WITHDRAWING FROM DRAMA: FINDING EXCITEMENT IN SERENITY;
HEALTHY SEX IN A RELATIONSHIP (WHAT'S THAT?!);
MULTIPLE/SWITCH ADDICTIONS;
FEELING LIKE A MINORITY IN SCA (Women, ethnic, HIV);
SAFE NON-SEXUAL TOUCH - MASSAGE;**

Tying all the feelings and emotions together at the end of this busy day will be a "Reflection Meeting" where members will share things which surfaced for them during the workshops.

Sunday evening will lighten up with a Gratitude Meeting, pot luck supper and entertainment. The latter will consist of skits, a song for the theme written by an SCA member, and topped off with a dance. SCA T-shirts will also be available for sale throughout the Conference.

Co-chair Armando S. says that the communication, cooperation and enthusiasm shown by all involved in getting the Conference put together has been just wonderful. "The SCAnner" salutes all of you there in New York at this great gathering of our clan!

THE SERENITY PRAYER

God, grant me the serenity,
to accept the things I cannot change,
courage to change the things I can,
and the wisdom
to know the difference.

RECOVERY RUMINATIONS...CONTRIBUTIONS FROM OUR MEMBERS

GRATITUDE...

I am very grateful for SCA. I have changed dramatically since I began working the Program. I never dreamed such joy and freedom were possible for me. I am fortunate that San Diego SCA is well organized and regularly attended by a large group of great people very dedicated to recovery from sexual compulsion. - Steve W.

ANONIMITY...

I am in a relationship with another member of the Program and anonymity has been an important factor for both of us. In the stormy early days of our romance, I was dying to know what he might be saying about me at meetings, and did all I could to find out. Luckily for both of us, nobody violated his anonymity (or mine). I gradually was able to accept that we have lives apart from each other, and our anonymity in SCA was an important factor in this growth. Anonymity has also been important in helping me reduce my raging egoism (as often as not disguised as shyness and self-deprecation). Over the years I've had to recognize that I'm not the most sensitive man in SCA or the greatest sinner, either, but just another suffering sexual compulsive. I got a lot of help with this by contributing anonymously to SCA's literature committees, and seeing that what was valuable was not the ways I could sound better or worse than other members, but the experience I had in common with them. - Bob R.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

THE SEEDS FOR CHANGE...

"There is nothing permanent except change." - Heraclitus

We've read many times over stories about how trees and plants are able to grow in seemingly impossible locations - like out of the crack in a rock or up through a concrete driveway. Up on the street above our house there's a crack in the pavement about a foot from the edge. Each year two or three Poppy plants grow up from that crack and put out beautiful blooms. It seems that the Universe has provided each seed with a message about its function - to grow upward into a plant and bloom so as to produce more seeds to continue its kind.

We each have within us similar seeds - seeds to grow and change our lives from what they are now or from what they have been. No matter how much internal rock or garbage or concrete might be covering those seeds, their message is to grow and flower into a new life - a new beginning. With a lot of nurturing - warmth, light, moisture - they do grow and flower.

Nurturing... just where does that come from? We can't go down to the nursery and buy a bag of it like we can fertilizer for plants and trees. No, that's right. The nurturing for OUR seeds comes from a different source. Our Twelve-step Program provides a lot of it... the principles behind those steps; the people who are in the Program with us; the safety and comfort of that meeting room we keep coming back to. Our faith in some Higher Power who will, when asked and accepted, guide us and help us get all that rock and garbage and concrete off of our seeds provides more. That's what the first three steps are all about: realizing we can't do it ourselves; that Something can; letting that Something take over. Not letting that Something do it all, but letting that Something provide the answers for us to act on; and change and grow on. That's all we need to make a new beginning for ourselves. With that Something in there rooting for us, we have all the strength we need to go and get all that stuff off of our seeds.

Once those seeds are out of the dark gloom and feel the warmth and light of the good which is in all of us, they grow and flourish and bloom into the new beings which we've had inside ourselves all this time. And it's never too late for us to work and change. Never too late at all.

A new beginning! Just the thought of it can be scary. But, considering what we've all been through, and will continue to go through if we and things we are involved with don't change, the scariness can turn into real elation. We have that Something - that Higher Power - to help us. That's all we need. - RK



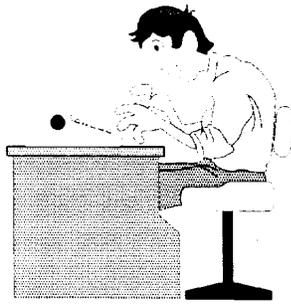
with someone I cared about to an empty event where I pleased someone I was not aroused by — later fantasizing about their pleasure.

I lied to and deceived myself. I told myself, "I'm having fun, I'm enjoying this," when I wasn't. I told myself "I" couldn't get HIV. I thought sharing sex was sharing love. I pretended I wasn't risking my health or safety by acting-out. I conned myself into believing acting-out validated me and made me feel better when actually it made me feel steadily worse. When I'd miss important responsibilities because of acting-out I'd tell myself they weren't that important, at least not more important than having sex. I believed it was all right to cheat on my lovers, that it wouldn't hurt them. I pretended there was nothing wrong with charging a hundred dollars at a time on my credit cards for sex accessories or hotels, charges I knew I couldn't pay for.

I pretended it was okay to manipulate an 11-year old into having sex when I was 21 because of how much he enjoyed it. (I now know this was rape.) I pretended there was nothing wrong with lying about my HIV status to sex partners so I wouldn't scare them away. I pretended acting-out in public bathrooms was exciting when really it was disgusting. I pretended that using drugs during sex made it more exciting and heightened eroticism when actually it was to escape the guilt, shame and disgust I felt about what I was doing. I pretended I was a caring, compassionate, giving lover in my relationships when really I was a selfish, self-centered taker unconcerned with the needs and wants of my partners. Finally, even after my arrest I still didn't believe I had a problem with sex. I'd just have to be more careful.

As I think back on this I feel very sad and empty. I feel angry, frustrated, cheated and alone. In the past I've denied or minimized these feelings and experiences, or I've used drugs and alcohol to numb them. Now that I'm clean and sober I'm beginning to get in touch with the pain this disease has caused me.

[To be continued in the next issue]



EDITOR

TIME FOR A NEW "SCANNER" EDITOR

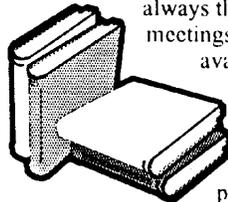
Much is said in the Program about "letting go". This letting go can be of things which are no longer pertinent to our lives, or of things which are damaging to our recovery, or just of things in the process of going on with other aspects of our lives.

I've come to the decision that it is time to let go of being the "SCANNER" Editor and get on with other matters in my life and my recovery. I've decided to do so at the end of the year, after the Fourth Quarter issue has been put to bed in November. By then, it will have been four years that I have served the Fellowship in that function. Now it's time to get some new blood, new ideas and some revitalizing into our newsletter.

So the way is open for another SCA member or members to render service to the Fellowship and to build upon the solid base the "SCANNER" now enjoys. Those interested should contact: SCA/ISO, PO Box 1585, Old Chelsea Station, New York, NY, 10113-0935. I can assure you, it will be a most rewarding experience! Jump in and give it a try. And thank you for allowing me to be of service. - Richard K., SCANNER Editor - San Luis Obispo SCA

CHECK OUT OUR SCA PUBLICATIONS

SCA literature is one of the tools toward our recovery - our meeting away from meetings. It's always there for you when meetings or the phone might not be available. Order for yourself and as thoughtful gifts for your friends in the Program. The following SCA/ISO publications are now available (prices include



shipping and handling):

SCA: A PROGRAM OF RECOVERY (The Little Blue Book), including SCA history, sample meeting format, recovery plans, slogans - single copy: \$5.50; two or more \$3.00 each
SECRET SHAME - Sexual Compulsion in the Lives of Gay Men and Lesbians - \$1.50 each
The SCA "FOUR-FOLD" informational brochure, especially useful for outreach - \$16.00 per 100 (minimum order is 100)
To order, or for information on these pieces, write SCA/ISO Literature, PO Box 931181, Hollywood, CA 90093.
NOW BEING PRINTED! The "QUESTIONS & ANSWERS" (Q&A) Pamphlet for newcomers and outreach. Price - \$1.50, including shipping and handling.

BITS and PIECES

recovery work!

LONG-FORM TWELVE TRADITIONS....

The SANTA MARIA & SAN LUIS OBISPO SCA groups are working toward coming up with a long-form version of the SCA Traditions. A previous version submitted to the ISO for comment or approval received the suggestion that the Traditions, to be most meaningful, should reflect the more unique experience of SCA and its members, rather than be an adaptation of the AA Traditions. BOB L. reports that members will meet May 2 in San Luis Obispo to formulate questions which will be submitted by mailings to the individual SCA groups regarding what those groups would envision in the SCA Traditions. When replies are received, further meetings will be held to digest them and eventually to work up a draft of the Traditions to be re-submitted to the ISO.

NEW TWELFTH-STEP COMMITTEE CHAIR FOR LOS ANGELES....

LOUIS D. is stepping into the ample shoes of the venerable MARSHALL L. as Chair of Southern California SCA's TWELFTH-STEP COMMITTEE. This workhorse committee is responsible for reaching out and carrying the SCA message to the sexually compulsive person who suffers, laying the foundation for hospitals and institutions panel networking, responding to those who heard of SCA by word of mouth and who need information about the Fellowship, to carry our message in a responsible and dignified manner, and to disseminate information about SCA principles. Louis plans his first committee meeting the first weekend of May. Welcome aboard, Louis! Louis mentioned, when he called recently, that he attended the February BLACK GAY AND LESBIAN LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE in Long Beach, where a sexual addiction meeting was held. He was pleasantly surprised to see that most of the attendees were long-term sobriety people from all over the country when he expected mostly newcomers and curiosity seekers.

SPANISH TRANSLATION OF SCA LITERATURE....

The also-venerable GEORGE M., of the SAN DIEGO SCA, has been instrumental in translating the "LITTLE BLUE BOOK" and the "SHAME" booklet into Spanish for our members and prospective members who speak Spanish. He is also beginning work on the new "QUESTIONS and ANSWERS" pamphlet. CARLOS has previously done considerable work in translating other pieces such as The 12 Steps, meeting format, characteristics, etc. After gathering, review and ISO approval, the literature will be printed in limited runs and made available with the rest of the SCA literature. If you'd

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like to HELP OUT with this project, please contact Frank H. in New York, Joe P. in Chicago or Maciek K. in Los Angeles.

"Q&A" PAMPHLET AVAILABLE SOON....

As this issue of "The SCAnner" goes to press, so does the long-awaited SCA pamphlet "QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS - a guide for newcomers to Sexual Compulsives Anonymous". Approved by the ISO at its February meeting, the pamphlet is expected to be priced at \$1.50 per copy, including shipping and handling, and will be invaluable for new and prospective members alike. Write the address listed in the SCA/ISO PUBLICATIONS column for more information.

GUERNEVILLE (CA) MEETING CLOSES....

DAN J. reports that the Russian River SCA meeting which has been held in Guerneville has closed. Meeting closures can be discouraging to members, but the thing to remember is that the seed of the Program has been planted in the minds of those who have attended. When recovery is ready to come for each of them, it will come, one way or another - a new meeting, a change in mindset, a change in the lives of each of us - but it will come.

THE WORD FROM "THE BIG APPLE"....

As always, the very active NEW YORK CITY SCA INTERGROUP has been keeping very busy. Each meeting of the Intergroup opens with the Chair, BILL E., discussing one or two of the SCA Traditions; this helps considerably in focusing those present on discussing and deciding SCA issues. LITERATURE COMMITTEE Chair, JEFFREY J., is having a difficult time maintaining steady committee members, but is plugging away. They are proceeding with a project on the SCA TOOLS FOR RECOVERY. Intergroup approved paying Jeffrey's fee for the retreat which has the Tools as its topic. FRANK H., MICHAEL Re. and BRIAN K. attended the Chicago ISO meeting in February as delegates from New York. Michael replaced BOB M. who had earlier resigned. JAY reports that the number of phone calls on the SCA line is up. One member per day is taking care of the important answering chores. CHARLES - DISTRIBUTION COMMITTEE - reports that the stock of SCA literature is in good shape, except for the "SHAME" booklets. Intergroup authorized replenishing stock on this item. SPECIAL EVENTS COMMITTEE is continuing with frequent gatherings. The Central Park Picnic last Fall was attended by about 50 people who played games and ate and talked well! An appeal was made for attendees to bring food to help make the functions more successful. NEIL G.,

WALTER V. and MICHAEL Re., of the TWELFTH STEP COMMITTEE, have completed a list of people proposed to speak anonymously when media calls SCA and have contacted each of them. Some have accepted and some have declined. Plans are in the works to send out an information sheet to supplement last year's outreach-to-community mailing. Intergroup voted to allow INITIATION OF MOTIONS by any member attending a meeting, but that a vote on the motion would be by Intergroup Reps or their specified stand-ins only. The major problem with this is the frequently low attendance by meeting Reps. Hopefully, this rule will result in higher attendance by the Reps. Intergroup voted to recommend to ISO that SCA IDENTIFY itself as a fellowship composed mostly of gay men but open to all. The group is looking into including a message in SPANISH on its phone answering setup. The TREASURER noted that he is seeing a steady decline in meeting contributions to Intergroup. Some meetings are limping along and even having to help each other to survive. But survive they do! That's the way it works.

SOME SCA-INFO FROM LOS ANGELES....

The February SCA WEST COAST CONVENTION, "The Steps We Take," at Cal State Los Angeles was very well attended, although somewhat less than the 1992 meeting. The all-SCA member recovery get-together turned a profit which will be used as "seed money" for next year's conclave. Well done, SCA guys and gals! The Chair for the 1994 Convention is JOSE O., who is holding the first planning meeting on May 23. Want to get in on it and help out? Call Jose at (213) 654-2764. DOYLE S., now the acting Southern California SCA Literature person taking the place of GENE T., reports that the new officers for the Intergroup are: DENNIS B., Chair; MICHAEL T., Secretary; and GARY S., Treasurer. Our very best wishes to them for their service. Doyle says that the Friday, 6:30 PM Atwater meeting, the Thursday, 7:30 AM West Hollywood, and the Tuesday 8:00 PM Fountain/Fairfax meetings have closed. The latter has merged with the Tuesday, 8:00 PM meeting at the new Gay and Lesbian Community Services Center at 1625 N. Hudson Ave., Room 110, near Hollywood Blvd., Hollywood. The Newcomers Sunday evening meeting has been replaced by the LONG-TERM SOBRIETY MEETING which is closed to visitors - for SCA-identified members only. It is intended for those with a year or more of sobriety, although this is not a strict requirement. The meeting takes place in Plummer Park on Santa Monica Blvd., West Hollywood, Sundays 6 to 7 PM. INTERGROUP has voted \$750 front money toward the publication of the "QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS" brochure, which is now being printed. It's always great to hear about the recovery work in our olde Alma Mater in Southern California.

RECOVERY CONTINUES IN MILWAUKEE....

RAYMOND K., Secretary of the Wednesday evening MILWAUKEE meeting, reports that that meeting is going great guns. He's encouraging members, including himself, to submit their stories for publication in "The SCAnner." We second that! He says that LEONARD S., of the Sunday night meeting, and ISO delegate, says he really was happy to see all the ISO delegates at its recent Chicago meeting in February. The Sunday meeting is doing fine, as well. All in all, Raymond says that they're making progress. That's what "ONE DAY AT A TIME" is all about, Milwaukee. Keep up with the recovery!

NEWS FROM "THE WINDY CITY"....

CHICAGOLAND Intergroup's SOCIAL COMMITTEE reports that the February potluck honoring the delegates to the ISO meeting was a great success. 40 to 50 people attended. The ISO is grateful to Chicago for the hospitality while the delegates were in town! The LITERATURE COMMITTEE was authorized to purchase additional tokens (chips). The possibility of Chicago making its own tokens was discussed, but dropped for lack of interest. JOE P., Intergroup Chair, has asked for help in getting the 150 Chicago-distributed copies of "The SCAnner" made. Joe is one of the members of the newly-formed Editorial Board for the SCA newsletter, along with FRANK H., of New York. He also requests material contributions for "The SCAnner." We need all the material we can get, SCA people! TODD has volunteered to work with SCOTT C., of San Diego, on that group's proposed SCA GROUP GUIDE. The 12-STEP COMMITTEE, as well as the other standing committees of Intergroup need volunteer help. Contact Joe P. BOB C. is exploring how SCA Chicago might proceed with introducing SCA to the JUSTICE SYSTEM. Los Angeles has had great success with this. New business for upcoming Intergroup meetings is the possibility of ADVERTISING in the Gay Yellow Pages and/or the Chicagoland white and yellow pages. It was great hearing from you, Chicago! Keep the news of your good work coming.

Let's hear from your group or your intergroup. Let us know of your successes and problems. You may think of your news as being insignificant, but that's not at all true. It's one way of knowing that we're all pulling for each other. Send your items - written, typed or scribbled - to "The SCAnner", c/o SCA, PO Box 13551, San Luis Obispo, CA 93406-3551. DEADLINE FOR THE LATE-AUGUST ISSUE IS AUGUST 6, 1993!