



THE SCANNER

SCA NEWSLETTER

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VOLUME 3, NO. 1

FIRST QUARTER, 1992

INTERFELLOWSHIP FORUM IN CHICAGO

SCA-SLAA-SAA

By Frank H., Chair, SCA/ISO

Culminating a year of planning, the first forum of three sexual recovery programs—SCA, SLAA & SAA—took place in Chicago October 26-27. Five delegates—SLAA's Tim G. and Nancy E., SAA's Jill S. and Karl H. and SCA's Frank H.—attended. Bill H., the second SCA delegate was in hospital and unable to attend. The first session began with getting to know a little about personal histories, service involvements and continued with presentations of each fellowship's current positions on particular issues. It was mutually agreed that we were not there to make decisions for the fellowships. Rather, attempts would be made to gain a consensus and make recommendations on avenues for cooperation among the programs.

We became aware of powerful commonalities, observing that all three programs have the same primary purpose—staying sexually sober and reaching out to still suffering sexual addicts—and that all three programs have the same requirement for membership—a desire to stop our addictive sexual behaviors. And to do these things we all use the 12 Steps of Alcoholics Anonymous (another fellowship!)

We concurred in the following recommendations:

1. Common Meeting Lists That each fellowship empower their groups or intergroups to cooperate with other sexual addiction fellowships in their local area in the development and distribution of common meeting lists. (Atlanta and Chicago already do this.)

2. Self-Descriptive Statement That each fellowship be encouraged to develop a brief statement to be used by other fellowships in referral and information work. The statement would include the fellowship's distinctive attributes. (SCA has already produced one.)

3. Literature Since there is much to learn from our shared experience, strength and hope, it was suggested that each fellowship explore ways in which the literature of other sexual addiction programs could be made available to their members at meetings. (SCA Tools propose this.)

Other recommendations included coordinating conventions, opening regional and national meetings and conferences to members of other fellowships, and limiting participation in the Interfellowship Forum

Continued on Page 5

LOS ANGELES HOSTS WEST COAST SCA CONVENTION

Stepping Into Recovery is the theme, February 14-16 are the dates, and The Conference Center, LA Department of Water and Power at 111 N. Hope Street, at Temple, is the location for the 3rd Annual SCA West Coast National Convention. Registration begins on February 14th at 7 PM, followed by an opening address by Barbara and Curly Monroe, therapists associated with The Meadows, in Phoenix, AZ.

Saturday is the real workday, with 16 workshops over several time slots providing something of very meaningful interest for everyone. At 7:30 PM, the scene shifts to Fiesta Hall in Plummer Park, 7377 Santa Monica Blvd., and things lighten up with the SCA PLAYERS' presentation of "CampAlot," a Twelve-step Recovery musical parody. This hilarious piece will be followed by a sober dance lasting until about 11:00.

Back to the DWP on Sunday, the 16th, at 10AM for a workshop on Spirituality and the Eleventh Step with Marianne Williamson. This will be followed, at 12 Noon, by a fund-raising brunch at the DWP Cafeteria, with Bob Earll, speaker and author associated with Sierra Tucson Treatment Center in Tucson, AZ. A \$20 donation is asked for this event. No fees or charges are made for any of the other convention activities, and parking is plentiful and free.

Delegates to the ISO Conference will be meeting throughout the weekend to work out, and on, issues concerning the Fellowship as a whole. Visitors are welcome to these sessions. It's a big weekend for SCA. Come join in!

"God, just for today, Please remove my defects of character that would keep me from doing Your will."

—Cindy T.

RECOVERY RUMINATIONS...

"OCTOBER 17, 1990"

*Twelve hours in my own jail, for my lover,
my make believe lover.*

*Sex with another man—in my mind!
When will I let go, when will I learn?
All the lies all the time.*

*Promising myself this will be the last one.
For my lover, my make believe lover.*

*So alone. See myself r-e-a-c-h-i-n-g,
p-l-a-n-n-i-n-g for my move
what a fool and I'm still here*

*Letting my life, my WHOLE LIFE be run
by my phalliacy.*

*Just want to run my hands over this last
one—what a lie*

*Clear to every blindman, but I look and
don't see.*

Next moment, want to die.

He's gone and where am I?

*Twelve hours in my own jail, for my lover
my make believe lover.*

What a fool and where am I.

—Richard W.

"ANOTHER LOOK AT THE SERENITY PRAYER"

On responsibility and fear... and Step confusion in general; The Serenity Prayer is the best solution. I didn't realize this 'til one day I reversed the order on that list of requests:

1. God grant me the wisdom to know the difference from what I can and can't change —Meaning if I'm powerless over it (even if "IT" means my feelings), then God must have domain over it and it's gonna be just fine. On to the next item!

2. God grant me the courage to change the things I can—Meaning take action only on stuff I know I can deal with without fucking it up. There's plenty to do even with that disclaimer.

3. God grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change ...Well, if I covered parts 1 & 2, I'll be too tired and have too much self esteem to let the other stuff bug me...

—Enola G.

EYEBALLING THE ISO

Between the semi-annual ISO meetings, members in New York and Los Angeles hold frequent "NISO" and "LA-ISO" meetings to help iron out details of Fellowship issues in order to help streamline resolving those issues. These, along with tele-conferencing between members, make for a much more effective use of the limited time at the ISO meetings. A summary of some of the recent goings-on follows...

Literature creation is an on-going subject of discussion. So far, SCA/ISO literature has been prepared as a joint effort of several members in committees. Perhaps consideration should now be given to literature originated by individuals, which would then enter the collective editing process throughout the Fellowship. If this is to be encouraged, assurance that such pieces won't get lost in the shuffle would be necessary.

Production and distribution of "The SCanner" is another frequent discussion subject. More and more it is realized that membership participation in "The SCanner" is not likely to be accomplished unless the newsletter distribution is firmed up and getting copies to all meetings is assured. How's about some ingenious ideas from out there!

It has been proposed that work be started toward an interfellowship "in-service training" project among the sexual recovery fellowships, making these fellowships better known by means of presentations to recovery facilities, hospitals, etc. The desirability of SCA having an interfellowship meeting list available to refer SCA members to meetings of other fellowships when out of SCA meeting areas is receiving favorable comment. Also being discussed is the possibility of creating and distributing a bibliography of all available interfellowship literature.

The ISO Bylaws are reaching the final stages of the approval process. Hopefully, approval will be accomplished at the Los Angeles ISO meeting in February. The Q and A brochure is undergoing final revisions and is nearly ready for publication.

ISO is still working on a standardized price structure, including shipping and handling costs, for its literature. The many combinations of pricing methods versus the limited time availability of those handling the orders and fairness to those sending in large and small orders

make it vital that this issue be settled as early as practicable. The goal is to get the literature out while making a small profit to support ISO and making the whole process as simple as possible. If any of you have experience in the mail order process, please contact your ISO delegate.

Further work on the SCA/ISO Statement for use with the other sexual recovery fellowships and outreach work is being done. The present version is believed by many to be too similar to our Statement of Purpose. A particular concern is to present SCA's primarily gay/lesbian membership image, while maintaining total openness to people regardless of their sexual orientation.

The possibility of having an ISO Public Affairs Officer to keep in touch with the media and other organizations in order to keep them abreast of what's going on in SCA is being discussed. Initial work is also being done toward working up SCA public service announcements, complete

FROM SCA'S Q&A BROCHURE

Here's a question and its answer from the soon to be published SCA QUESTION AND ANSWER brochure. The brochure is aimed at newcomers and people interested in the Program, but it will serve as a "refresher course" for the old-timers as well.

Q: What is compulsive sex?

A: Compulsive sex takes many forms. It is sexual behavior which we feel is out of control. Part of the problem is our delusion that we do have power over such behavior. It might be that we just can't stay out of the parks, restrooms, or bookstores, no matter how hard we try. Perhaps we can't stop calling 976 phone numbers even though we clearly can't afford to continue. We may spend rent and food money on prostitutes, pornography and sex toys. Maybe we can't keep our eyes and our attention off certain body parts of others. Excessive, repeated and/or painful masturbation may be a problem for us. We may end up in bed (or any variety of public places) having sex with just about any partner, no matter how dangerous, unattractive, abusive or unhealthy, just because we feel we HAVE to have sex. We feel we can't stop ourselves. Sexual compulsion could be an inability to stop saying things that have a sexual connotation, making suggestions and innuendos to others or even persistently using sexual humor inappropriately. It may take a variety of other forms as well. It may even be

My Story

THROUGH SOME SMALL MIRACLE

- Part I

My story isn't like the other stories. I didn't start masturbating at an early age. In fact my first experience with masturbating was a negative one. My older brother taught me. And it felt more like he was teasing me or making fun of me than teaching me something. Rather than have an ejaculation, it felt more like I had to urinate but couldn't. It was quite unpleasant.

The most significant part of my story is that from my earliest memories I was turned away from my natural interests and inclinations. One of three boys, I was gentle and sensitive and held traits that my mother considered to be effeminate. When my brothers would pick on me she would tell me that they loved me and that I needed to learn to be tougher. Consequently, I learned at a very early age to hide my true feelings or receive physical or emotional abuse. My entire childhood was geared to first learning, then adapting myself to what was considered "acceptable" behavior by my mother's standards. The children and adults I was naturally drawn to my mother forbade me to see. The children and adults that were "acceptable" by her standards didn't like me. Consequently I had two brothers who picked on me and was forced to play with children who didn't want to play with me.

My father loved me as I was. I saw him as my protector, but he was seldom around, and when he was around he kept to himself. He often intervened between my mother and me, telling her to leave me alone. She therefore learned to ridicule me when my father wasn't around. On occasion, I would tell him the things she was saying and doing to me. She'd tell him that I was lying, or exaggerating, or had a vivid imagination. My father always seemed to believe her. As I look back I can see why; I was a liar and a sneak. It seemed the only way I could do what came natural to me was to lie or sneak around. I was punished if I did; picked on or ridiculed if I didn't. Eventually, I just learned to take the abuse. I felt bad all the time whether I was doing what I wanted to do or doing what my mother made me do. I had a miserable childhood.

The first sexual encounter I remember was with my father. I was about three years old. He would allow me to climb in

bed with him. He also allowed me to play with his genitals. All of this happened in secret (my mother and father slept in separate beds) so my mother never knew of it. My mother never let me sleep with or touch her, nor do I ever recall wanting to. One day, when I was playing with him, my father started to become aroused. Although I don't remember seeing him aroused, I do remember the "feeling." He immediately stopped me and never allowed me to touch his genitals again.

My second encounter happened shortly after. I tried to get the little boy from across the street to pull his pants down so I could play with his genitals. (We were the same age—three or four.) He wouldn't

"I learned at a very early age to hide my true feelings or receive physical or emotional abuse. My entire childhood was geared to first learning, then adapting myself to what was considered "acceptable" behavior by my mother's standards."

let me but I was intent on recapturing that "feeling" I once had, but could no longer get from my father. He resisted, but eventually he gave in. He went straight to my mother and told her when we finished. She sent him home and took me to my room where I was stripped and beaten with a leather belt.

I don't remember sexual feelings again until I was around ten. I had befriended the boy across the street. He was the first person that my mother allowed me to play with who I actually wanted to play with. We used to explore together, and one day we were down by a pond and climbed into a well and started playing with each other's genitals. He seemed to like it as much as I did. Shortly thereafter, he had an accident and had to have both of his eyes patched up. I remember going to visit him. He couldn't see me; was vomiting and really sick. I felt like it was my fault; that we had been "bad" together and that his accident was because of it. Then they moved away and I never saw him again.

I never masturbated or touched myself sexually, but I do remember having strong sexual feelings and I can remember al-

ways wanting to somehow get that "feeling" with other boys. It seemed that the only time I had relief from the constant pain of rejection, or not fitting in, or being turned away from my natural creative outlets, was when I was pursuing that "feeling." It seemed the only pleasurable feeling I had in childhood. Yet, I also knew that it was inherently "bad," just like every other inclination I had.

Around eleven or twelve, I started experimenting a lot. I was never interested in girls, only boys. While I would do things with girls, it was only if there were boys participating and only because I wanted to see the boys. I remember playing strip poker with my older brother and three cousins—two boys and a girl. Once we had all gotten naked, I had an erection; but it wasn't because of the girl, it was because of my other cousin. I remember that he was very handsome and had reached puberty so he had hair on his genitals like my father. I

also remember that at all costs I had to hide the feelings I had for him and other men. I had to hide that it was really boys that I was attracted to.

When I was around twelve I befriended a boy—Danny—whose older brother was a friend of my older brother. Danny and I were just beginning to be friends and I remember for the first time having strong feelings that were "good" but not sexual. It felt like he wanted to be my friend as much as I wanted to be his; that we wanted to be each other's friends. We made a kind of friendship pact and it felt great because it didn't have that other "feeling," but felt even better. In a different way. It felt good; not like something I would be punished for.

Then one night I was sleeping over at his house and his older brother, the friend of my older brother, climbed in bed with us. He had hair like my cousin and father, and he wanted to fondle us. Danny didn't want anything to do with it but that "feeling" was really strong and I was excited. It was the first time since my father that I touched a "grown man's" genitals, although the "grown man" was only fifteen. He liked it too and wanted to touch

mine and the "feeling" got stronger and stronger. We touched each other for a long time. After that night, Danny never asked me to sleep over at his house again and, while we remained friends, we never got any closer. He pretty much stayed away from me.

When I got into junior high school, it seemed that all the boys were reaching puberty except me. I was very interested in looking at them, but I also knew that I had to hide it. That every time someone found out about it, I suffered some kind of ridicule or rejection. I learned to only "play sexually" with boys who weren't friends, or would not be in a position to tell the people that were my friends. If I had strong feelings for another guy who was also friendly to me, I would usually distance myself from him. I knew that eventually they would find out my "secret" and reject me like Danny did. Consequently, I really had no friends even though I was very popular and part of the "in crowd." Nobody ever knew about who I really was.

Then this boy moved to town, and he was becoming really popular because he was very athletic. I used to be around him because he hung out with the guys I did—the jocks. I hung out with the jocks because, by junior high, I had learned how to be "accepted" by them and they were the only people "acceptable" to my mother. This boy was doubly "acceptable" because his parents and my parents belonged to the same country club and were best friends. He and I hit puberty late. When we finally did, I was starting to feel really "different" from everyone and increasingly isolated. Even though I was still popular, and appeared to be happy, I was hiding this big part of myself and dating girls so that nobody would find out about me. If I had sexual feelings for John, I kept away from them because he was close to my inner circle and was also someone that I really cared about. I knew better than to blow it with another friend.

Then one day, I was visiting him at a house where he was baby-sitting. We were sitting talking, and I started to notice that I could see up his shorts. The "feeling" came on like it had never come on before, and a rush of excitement overtook me. No longer thinking, just acting, I discretely moved closer so I could get a better look. I did it so he wouldn't notice. He opened his leg, as if on cue, and gave me an even better look. I was sure he didn't know what I was doing even though I was becoming almost uncontrollably excited. I repositioned myself and casually, as if by

accident, leaned against his leg. He moved his leg so that it touched me firmly, giving me a clear view up his shorts. He had an erection. At this point, I became so excited I could hardly breathe. I started to reach up his leg and he opened it even further like he wanted me to. Suddenly, a car drove up the driveway. The people had come home. We both jumped up. We never talked about it to each other, but he started sleeping over at my house and I would massage his whole body. This was a real turn-on for me, as it obviously was for him. Though I never once touched his genitals, he would become so excited that he'd ejaculate anyway. Just from the touch. After he ejaculated, I would climb in bed by myself, or roll away from him on the bed we were on together, and masturbate and go to sleep.

The more we "did it," the more "in love" with him I felt. Though he never gave me any affection back and acted like it was something that never happened. Eventually, he seemed to be bothered by me and would be mean to me in front of the other guys. But it was confusing because in private he acted like he really cared for me and he continued to sleep over at my house and we'd go through the whole routine.

After a while, I became bolder and tried to seduce a friend of John's from the country club. A guy I hung out with confronted me shortly after that, saying, "John says that you're gay; is it true?" I felt like I'd been slammed in the stomach or something. Overwhelmed with fear of exposure, rejection and ridicule, I denied it. Maybe it had been true, but I was going to do everything I could to change it. It wasn't until many years later that I learned that both he and I had been set up. Danny, the same boy whose house I'd slept over a few years before, was mad at John for something else. He had used the situation and me as a scapegoat to get everyone to reject John. John was ostracized for telling lies about me. For some reason, their relationship with me was left intact, though it would never be the same. A few days after the incident, John left basketball practice and came to see me at work. He was distraught by the sudden rejection and came to beg me for forgiveness. I couldn't even look him in the eye. I had never felt so violated. I told him to leave and that I never wanted anything to do with him again. I immediately went to therapy to learn how to get rid of all homosexual feelings.

Continued on Page 5

Food For Thought...

"Sought through prayer and meditation to improve our conscious contact with God as we understood God, praying only for knowledge of God's will for us and the power to carry that out." —11th Step

When I first joined SCA, my first exposure to a Twelve-step Program, I thought to myself, "Wow, that 11th Step should really be easy!" Well, it hasn't been—at least not for me. But it's coming.

For years I've been reading about meditating, and heard people talking about it. It looked like all I had to do was sit quietly on the floor or in a chair, close my eyes, and all these great things, including God, would start coming to mind—just like a fine movie. Well, somehow, that seldom works like that for me. I have a very "busy" mind, and there's all this mind-chatter that keeps getting in the way, and I keep forgetting why it is that I'm sitting there and I get off on a dozen other subjects, including the sharp number I saw walking down the street yesterday!

I do pretty well with guided meditations—someone else quietly walking me into a calm state of mind so I can just sit and listen. But there isn't always someone around who can do that, and I get tired of the same old tapes.

But, I'm finding that, for me, meditation works better when it's not a rigidly planned and timed thing. Like walking along a street or road and noticing little things like tiny flowers blooming under seemingly impossible circumstances—it seems there's always something blooming at any time of the year, anywhere. Or standing at a window when the sun is coming up and everything in the valley below is calm and quiet. Or noticing a smile from a person in the supermarket and smiling back. Or hearing the tinkling, giggly laughter of kids playing somewhere. And watching birds scratching for seeds. Then I know; God is coming through!

And I'm finding that prayer isn't the "Now I lay me down to sleep" thing I did as a kid. Not for me, at least. Many times it is rather "organized," but much of the time it's just a simple "Thank you God," when I see something like a sunset or a unique tree or a couple of deer foraging. Or just a "Goodnight, God, and thanks for today." I feel a stirring over my heart and know He's really there and He hears me.

For a long time, I thought that when I prayed for knowledge of God's will for

me, I could close my eyes and there'd be His "will-list" for the day. All I'd have to do is check each thing off as I did or didn't do it. Nope! Doesn't work that way at all. It's finally sinking in that God's will comes through in subtle ways just when I need to know it. Like a few weeks ago when I was shopping in one of the malls I used to act out in, and I got into this mental tug of war about... well I need to go to the rest room and it won't hurt to go to THAT one I used to go to... after all I've been sexually sober for over two years and so I can just do my business and leave. Ha! Anyway, the battle went on for several minutes when suddenly I just decided: no, that wouldn't be healthy for me at all. Not only did God's will come through strong and clear, but His strength did as well, and I went on about my business and forgot about that place.

When I don't hassle prayer and meditation, God always comes through—many times in unexpected ways. His will manifests in my making the right choice for

SAN DIEGO'S SCA CONVENTION

San Diego Intergroup held its first SCA Convention December 7 & 8, 1991. Judging by the response, it won't be the last. Hours of service were put in by members and others to make it a memorable occasion.

After registration, the Convention got started with an open meeting with a speaker and round robin sharing. The rest of the day was taken up with seven very meaningful workshops: subjects ranging from incest to inner child to communication to self-esteem. A get-together dance in the evening, following a round robin meeting, rounded out the busy day. Sunday closed the Convention with a group workshop, closing meeting and a brunch.

After expenses, a profit of \$54 remained—a tribute to the work and good, solid planning that went into the event.

SUPPORT YOUR ISO

Send individual and group contribution checks (made out to SCA/ISO) to SCA/ISO, PO Box 1585, Old Chelsea Station, New York, NY 10113-0935. Remember the money you used to spend on phone calls, gasoline, doctors, lawyers, fines, pornography. Now that you're in recovery, consider sending that money to support the recovery work of your ISO. It works when you work it.

SCANNER'S SECOND BIRTHDAY!

This issue marks the Second anniversary of "The SCanner", which had it's humble beginnings in February, 1990, just in time for the first West Coast SCA Convention in Los Angeles. We've come a long way since then. For one thing, one can read it without squinting now!

The very best gift we could receive in celebration would be your participation. Poems, recovery feelings, your "stories", thoughts and comments about SCA and our ISO, questions . . . That would be great! And it really helps in ending our isolation.

How's about hearing from you. Send your submittals to: "The SCanner", c/o SCA, 4470-107 Sunset Blvd., #520, Los Angeles, CA 90027. No need for fancy typing, just so it's readable. And your anonymity is assured. Thank you, Brothers and Sisters for your support these past two years! "The SCanner" is YOUR newsletter - dedicated toward promoting

SCA/ISO PUBLICATIONS

The following SCA/ISO publications are now available:

THE LITTLE BLUE BOOK ("SCA: A Program of Recovery");

"SECRET SHAME: Sexual Compulsion in the Lives of Gay Men and Lesbians"

The SCA "FOUR-FOLD" informational brochure.

For information on obtaining these pieces, write Gene T., at SCA/ISO Literature, PO Box 931181, Hollywood, CA 90093, or call him at (213) 656-7150.

The SCA/ISO literature is a great tool toward our recovery and no SCA member or group should be without copies. They

CHICAGO FORUM

Continued from Page 1
to programs dealing with sexual addiction and compulsion and not include the co-dependency groups. We agreed to send notes from this meeting to SA. SA was invited to attend this Forum but declined.

The next Interfellowship Forum is scheduled for November 6-8, 1992.

MEETINGS

SCA Meetings Information:

SCA New York
PO Box 1585
Old Chelsea Station
New York, NY 10113-0935

SCA Southern California
4470-107 Sunset Blvd., #520
Los Angeles, CA 90027

SCA INFORMATION LINES: (Recorded messages 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	(619) 584-1974
Odessa, TX	(915) 560-5240
Milwaukee, WI	(414) 963-1189
San Francisco, CA	(415) 863-3536
(Contact, Brian B.)	

For information on other sexual addictions programs:

Sex and Love Addicts Anonymous (SLAA)
PO Box 119, New Town Branch
Boston, MA 02258
(617) 332-1845

Sex Addicts Anonymous (SAA)
PO Box 3038
Minneapolis, MN 55403
(612) 339-0217

My Story

Continued from Page 4

Within a very short period, John was in the psych ward of the local hospital. To this day, I think I caused his breakdown because of my aberrant, deviant sexual behavior, and then my failure to be honest about it.

*TO BE CONCLUDED IN
THE NEXT ISSUE OF "The SCanner"*

Bits and Pieces

Here and There . . .

MEETINGS... Meetings... meetings... Although not an SCA meeting, *per se*, CHICAGO's SCA has a meeting on Tuesdays at 7:30, to work on individual recovery issues through the use of the *HOPE AND RECOVERY* text and workbook. Join in for a quiet evening of reading, writing and reflection. Call the Chicago help line for more information... **CHICAGO's** first suburban meeting is now taking place Mondays, 7:30, in **FRANKLIN PARK** at St. Patrick's Episcopal Church, 3245 Calwagner. It focuses on the first 3 Steps and is aimed at newcomers and those who feel the need for more structure and understanding in their programs... **LOS ANGELES** has a new one-hour meeting at 6:15 Friday evenings in Atwater at St. Francis and St. Mary of the Angels Chapel, 3621 Brunswick off Glendale Blvd. The meeting alternates speakers and "Hope and Recovery" readings... **"FEEDBACK FOR RECOVERY"** is the title of a new Upper West Side **NEW YORK** meeting. The meeting offers affirmations, timed pitch shares, feedback and "fluttering." The latter you have to see to believe. Come see Tuesdays at 6 PM at Monsignor George Murphy Center, 213 West 82nd St, between Broadway and Amsterdam... **NORWALK**, Connecticut, joins SCA with two meetings—Fridays and Sundays at 8:30 PM. Call the New York help line for location... **ATLANTA**, Georgia, now has a Gay/Lesbian SCA meeting on Wednesday evenings. Check with New York for further information... **LET'S ALL SUPPORT THESE NEW MEETINGS WITH YOUR ATTENDANCE. IT WORKS, WHEN YOU WORK IT!**

FLASH! SAN DIEGO SCA has a new information line number: (619) 685-8540. This is on a voice-mail setup, so you can leave questions and these will be answered by a volunteer...

CHICAGOLAND INTERGROUP is working out the rough spots regarding not-for-profit status and the difference this would make in placing ads in "The Reader"... **RICHARD R.** has finished his year as Intergroup President—a very productive one at that—and turned the gavel over to **BOB H. SCOT S.** is the new Vice-chair, **TOM C.** the new Treasurer and **DALE S.** the new Secretary. Congratulations and best wishes for even greater growth in and around Chicago!... Chicago's **TEST POSITIVE AWARENESS** group has requested a presentation by SCA members. This was approved by Intergroup, and **RICHARD R.** and **ARLAN**, and possibly **JOHN G.**, will be presenters... Intergroup has approved its taking over the distribution of "The SCanner" for all but the New York and Los Angeles areas. Welcome aboard! We need all the good help we can get!... Intergroup has adapted the ISO list of Objectives for its own use and is busy working on organizational items to assure an even more smoothly working body... **BILL H.** will attend the Los Angeles ISO meeting as the Chicago delegate... 50 copies of "The Little Blue Book" have been or-

dered, and an order for "Secret Shame" pamphlets will soon follow... The use of SCA medals in Chicagoland is getting closer. **TODD** and **SCOT S.** are working on the details... The "JENNY JONES SHOW" has requested that an SCA member appear on the show with his/her story. It was decided that as long as the member did not appear as a representative of SCA, but rather as an individual, that there would be no problem with SCA Traditions. The SCA phone number could also be shown—and backup answerers are ready to pick up the expected load... **JOHN G.** is working up a list of objectives of the LITERATURE Sub-committee to aid in obtaining volunteers... **"THE HEALING TRIANGLE,"** the annual New Year's Eve Retreat for SAA, SLAA, SCA, SA, SANON and COSA members took place at the Perpetual Help Retreat Center at Oconomowoc, WI, December 30-31 and January 1. Included were workshop opportunities in dance, music, painting/drawing and writing... **TOM C.** reports that the first SCA BOWLING NIGHT in August was such a success—with 12 members participating—that another was held in October. This time 20-25 members participated, with fellowship at a local restaurant afterward. November saw the SCA Candle-light GOLFING EVENING, with about a dozen members taking part. All of this reinforces the fact that socializing is an important tool toward our recovery!

LOS ANGELES Intergroup organized a THANKSGIVING POTLUCK Thanksgiving afternoon. **BILL M** provided the turkey, and attending members brought along the trimmings... The HALLOWEEN PARTY, which took place at **PETER C.'s** home, raised \$116 for the Retreat Fund... **PETER** is also the Chair for the Convention (February) Committee, and speakers, workshops and other details are being rapidly firmed up... Intergroup officers will hold their positions until after the Convention, with the exception of **LAURA R.** who requested being released from her service as Secretary. Officers are **MARK S.**, Chair, **GARY S.**, Treasurer and **GENE T.**, Literature... Fliers are being prepared and distributed to the area meetings to drum up better representation at Intergroup meetings... The next Southern California SCA RETREAT will be held at Mt. Calvary Retreat House in SANTA BARBARA Friday, May 22 thru Sunday, May 24. Call (213) 669-0163, for information.

SAN DIEGO Intergroup's GROUP GUIDE TRAINING Committee has distributed for approval the first draft of its **SCA GROUP GUIDE**, a very handy and complete informational piece for individuals and groups in San Diego, aimed at promoting unity within SCA. The Committee is to be commended for its hard work... **B.J.**, **STEPHEN C.** and **LORRAINE**, of the PUBLIC INFORMATION Committee (PIC), scheduled a Twelfth-Step presentation for GYA in November. PIC also distributed meeting schedules and brochures to those asking for them. Letters to the professional community regarding SCA have been approved and will be mailed soon. PIC will also be fielding the phone calls on the

new help line—**GORDON** will be the temporary contact... Intergroup Chair **RICHARD W.** has resigned and **GEORGE M.** will act as interim Chair for the remainder of his term. George is also representing the San Diego groups at the February ISO meeting.

NEIL G., NEW YORK INTERGROUP, reports that there is a need to reconstitute the LITERATURE COMMITTEE since its completion of "Secret Shame." Available are a lot of notes from work on a masturbation piece, so volunteers are needed. See **FRANK H.** or **BOB R.**... **CHARLES H.**, states that "Secret Shame" and the "Little Blue Book" have sold so well that a re-order is needed... **HENRY S.** says that the August retreat netted \$301, after expenses!... Intergroup provided Friday night supper for the September ISO meeting delegates, and several New York members provided housing for the out-of-town members... The SCA HOLIDAY PARTY was held at The Center on December 15, according to **DAVID F.**, who acknowledged a whole lot of help. They're looking toward a VALENTINE'S DAY party next, with profits split between NY Intergroup and ISO... 12TH-STEP COMMITTEE needs a new chair, as **ROBIN** is only available on a limited basis. Volunteer? The Committee has received approval on the text of an outreach letter to be mailed to about 200 mental health professionals, judges, etc... **NEIL G.** is working up a form for use by individual meetings to keep Intergroup advised of officers and contacts... Intergroup distributed 150 copies of the 3rd Quarter issue of "The SCanner." A motion to distribute 100 copies of the next two issues were approved. This work will be handled by **BRIAN K.** and **CHARLES H.** A big vote of thanks to these two, and to NY Intergroup for getting "The SCanner" out to New York and the individual meetings!... Intergroup voted \$1,000 toward the travel expenses of its three delegates to the ISO meeting in Los Angeles in February... "Integrating Our Lives" is the theme for New York Intergroup's next Retreat at Holiday Hills Conference Center in Pauling, Friday, April 24th thru Sunday, April 26. For information, call **BOB H.**, at (212) 333-4502, or **JIM R.**, at (212) 229-1526. Register with **HENRY S.** by calling (212) 627-0940.

SEND YOUR GROUP AND INTERGROUP NEWS FOR "BITS AND PIECES" TO:

"THE SCANNER"
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4470-107 SUNSET BLVD., #520
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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."