

I Don't Work the Program

I DON'T WORK the program. Furthermore, I doubt that I ever will. I am not now, nor have I ever been, crazy about work. At its best, I believe it to be a necessary evil. It takes up a lot of my time that I could put to better use.

Back when we were living in caves, inventing things like the wheel, the spear, and the fishing pole, I don't think anyone ever said, "Let's invent work for the fun of it." What probably happened was more like this. A bunch of my ancestors had spent a day fishing and hunting and having a real blast for themselves. When they got back to the cave, they were dog-tired, so they looked around until they found someone who had been sitting in the shade all day and was well rested.

Then they beat the living daylight out of him until he agreed to clean and stow all of the equipment and cook the harvest of the day's outing. This is how work was invented.

Now, don't get me wrong. I am not lazy. I have worked all of my life (except for the days I was bad snake-bit), and no one ever beat

me. I was paid in real, hard-earned money.

That money has bought me some good things and some bad things, some pleasure and some pain. But I still don't work for the fun of it.

However, there are many things I do for the fun of them. I hunt, fish, and play golf and cards, and there is no work involved in any of these. I do them for the pleasure they bring into my life, and I practice them a lot, and I enjoy them all.

I don't work the AA program, either. I practice at it, and I thoroughly enjoy it. A short time after I came into AA, my sponsor told me that the whole thing — the Twelve Steps, the meetings, the fellowship, and all — was there to make me and my life happier. And he was as right as right can be. AA has changed my life from a nightmare into a beautiful way to live. Going at my program with the same enthusiasm that I have for anything else I really enjoy has added a lot of pleasure. I look forward to opportunities to practice at the program. And it has never been called off because of rain.

Contrary to what I used to be told when I was growing up, practice has never made anything perfect in my life — not my hunting or my fishing or my golf or my program. But without a doubt, one day at a time, they all do get better.

Bill C., Houston, Tex.