

October 1970

Scheduled Events

*A summary of the happenings
at AA's 35th Anniversary Convention*

THE MOMENTUM of the Miami Beach Convention began to build with the arrival of the first early registrants on Wednesday and Thursday and reached a crescendo in the flow of thousands of sober alcoholics greeting each other in loving fellowship. The AA talk flowed on and on, too, rich with the inner knowledge we all share. Hospitality suites were swinging day and night, and there were AA alkathon meetings every night and during many daytime hours. The film "Bill Discusses the Twelve Traditions" was on view a good part of every day.

But there was also a full schedule of planned events. Here is a synopsis of that schedule, with some impressions and highlights:

(All events at the Hotel Fontainebleau, except where otherwise noted)

Thursday, July 2

9:00 PM - 1:00 AM: Two get-acquainted dances — Lenny Dawson's orchestra in the Grand Ballroom, rock with the Generation Gap

in the French Room.

Friday, July 3

8:30 - 10:00 AM: Six AA workshops— (1) AA Around the World, (2) Central and Intergroup Offices, (3) Hospitals and Rehabilitation Centers, (4) Public Information, (5) Sponsorship, (6) Grapevine.

8:30 — 10:00 AM: *Five Al-Anon workshops (Eden Roc Hotel).*

10:30 AM - 12:30 PM: Four special panels.

(1) Fellowships Similar to AA. Chm.: JOHN R. Speakers: MAJOR MARY C. DAVIS, Salvation Army, speaking on Narcotics Anonymous; ARBUTUS O'N., Al-Anon member; BILL G., chairman, Board of Trustees of Gamblers Anonymous. *"Closed meetings [in Gamblers Anonymous] can only be attended by 'clean' members."*

(2) AA and Hospitals. Chm.: DR. VINCENT DOLE. Speakers: FRANCIS J. O'NEILL, MD, director, Central Islip State Hospital, Central Islip, N.Y.; REV. JOHN E. KELLER,

administrative director, Rehabilitation Center, Lutheran General Hospital, Park Ridge, Ill. *"The appropriate community placement and after-hospital followup . . . in large measure . . . have been solved by our close relationship with AA groups and members."* *"If the local hospital does not have the staff and facilities for treatment, there is an immediately available resource in members of Alcoholics Anonymous."*

(3) AA Unity. Chm.: DON F. A panel with AA speakers chosen from the Board of Trustees. "Unity" was the theme of the Convention.

(4) AA and Government Agencies. Chm.: STEVE O. Speakers: KENNETH L. EATON, acting assistant chief, National Center for Prevention and Control of Alcoholism, Chevy Chase, Md.; MELVIN P. SIKES, Ph.D., professor, Department

Around the World (Eden Roc Hotel).

12 Noon: Miami Intergroup luncheon. Chm.: MARY D. Among those present on the dais was New York Intergroup's Doris H., and the meeting was made especially heartwarming by the presence of a smiling, grateful Nick. Nick was an arrogant Spanish drunk who could not be impressed, and he became the pet of the New York Intergroup office. He panhandled up and down the avenues and in front of Intergroup, often throwing the coins back at the donor when he felt the amount was too small. Again and again, he was found passed out in the vestibule at the start of Intergroup's business day. When the office moved from 39th Street, Nick rode with and passed out in the moving van.

Eventually, he took the geograph-

A little old lady under a sun umbrella asked us what was going on, and when we told her, she said, "Good! I hope you can help some of the luses around here."

of Educational Psychology, University of Texas, Austin, Tex. *"We must set our goal as the establishment of a national program involving Federal, state, and local governments, both public and private sectors, voluntary as well as official agencies, AA and other self-help groups, universities, industry. In fact, every institution in our society has a job to do in the battle against alcoholism."*

10:30 AM — 12:30 PM: *Al-Anon*

ical cure and moved to Florida. Collect calls from Florida began to come through for Doris, and they kept coming, until, finally, Doris said to the operator, "Ask him if he has any money."

Nick's voice came loud and clear. "Jeez, if I had any money, do you think I'd be calling Dorie?" Doris gave the operator the Intergroup number in Miami, and Nick promptly became the pet drunk of the Miami office. One day, the tender,

loving care of the Hialeah Group impressed him at last. "Why, they even shined my shoes!" And the little Spanish guy who had been jailed more than a hundred times began to sober up. Said Nick at the lunch, "I so happy. I born again."

2:30-4:30 PM: Four special panels.

(1) **AA and Rehabilitation Facilities.** Chm.: ROBERT P. Speakers:

Washington, D.C.; DR. FORREST L. RICHESON, senior pastor, First Christian Church, Minneapolis, Minn. *"Around each alcoholic is a circle of people caught up in the frustration and misfortune evolving from the alcoholic's drinking. Into this circle, the clergyman has opportunity after opportunity to enter."*

(4) **AA and Personnel Counselors.** Chm.: ARTHUR MILES. Speak-

My husband was riding in a cab to the Fontainebleau, and the cabdriver asked whether they didn't have something for gamblers. He was always broke because of that compulsion, he said. My husband referred him to Gamblers Anonymous.

CHARLES H. AHARAN, Ph.D., regional director, Alcoholism and Drug Addiction Research Foundation, Lake Erie Region, London, Ont.; SISTER M. BLANDINE, Fond du Lac County Alcoholism Services, Inc., Fond du Lac, Wis. *"If you want an AA helper, I think you would be very wise to contact a man who has had some experience — say five years.... One of the things you will encounter is the AA evangelist."*

(2) **AA in Southeastern U.S.** Chm.: WALTER T. Florida was the setting of the Convention, and the Southeastern Regional Convention Committee selected AA speakers from this section of the U.S.

(3) **AA and the Clergy.** Chm.: MAURICE R. Speakers: REV. THOMAS E. PRICE, Ph.D., director, Department of Alcohol Problems and Drug Abuse, United Methodist Board of Christian Social Concerns,

ers: CHARLES L. MASSIE, minister, Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, Independence, Mo.; ANN ST. Louis, personnel counselor, Staff Relations Division, Department of National Revenue, Ottawa, Ont. *There is an "unfortunate tendency" on the part of supervisors to cover up for alcoholic employees and thus do them a "terrible injustice and perhaps irreparable harm."*

2:30 — 4:30 PM: *Al-Anon meeting — Working Together to Recover* (Eden Roc Hotel).

8:00-10:00 PM: The Big Meeting. In buses to Convention Hall. Most impressive — 11,000 sober alcoholics under one roof.

Saturday, July 4

8:30 - 10:00 AM: Six AA workshops— (1) Service — the Heart of AA; (2) Group Activity — the Lifeline of AA; (3) Prisons; (4)

Cooperation with Outside Agencies; (5) Industry — Carrying the Message to Management, Labor, and the Employee; (6) Loners, Internationalists, Armed Forces.

8:30 — 10:00 AM: *Five Al-Anon workshops* (Eden Roc Hotel).

10:30 AM-12:30 PM: Four special panels.

(1) **AA and Courts and Law-Enforcement Agencies:** Chm.: AL S. Speakers: EUGENE K. MANGUM, chief magistrate, City Court, Phoenix, Ariz.; THOMAS W. O'MEARA, chief probation officer in Adult Probation Department for the State of Connecticut. *"The concerned judge has a great opportunity to be of help to suffering alcoholics who come before him. Learn the great worth and work of AA, and utilize its services."*

(2) **AA Around the World.** Chm.: DR. WALTHER LECHLER, nonalcoholic trustee, German General Service Board. Speakers: AAs from all

highly successful TV documentary). *Reading from the AA General Service Board Public Information Committee's survey of the public image of AA meetings and AA members: "... AA meetings are inspiring ... philosophical... AA members are ... weak... unhappy... neurotic..."*

(4) **AA and Alcoholism Agencies.** Chm.: RUTH W. Speakers: MAXWELL N. WEISMAN, MD, director, Division of Alcoholism Control, State of Maryland Department of Mental Hygiene, Baltimore, Md.; WILLIAM W. MOORE JR., executive director, National Council on Alcoholism; ARCHER TONGUE, executive director, International Council on Alcohol and Addictions, Lausanne, Switzerland. *"Alcohol is still the major drug in use today. Alcohol is the number one drug abused on campus, with marijuana a distant second."*

10:30 AM — 12:30 PM: *Al-Anon*

The most moving incident involved our Brooklyn-born (I could tell by the accent) cabdriver, who told us, "AA people are the best people in the world — it's all over the Beach — 7,500 cab drivers are spreading the word. I just never met people like that before!"

around the world. *Though the many accents were different, the AA experiences were very much alike.*

(3) **AA and the Communications Media.** Chm.: BAYARD P. Speakers: KARL K. KRUEGER, editor, *The Rotarian*; Lou H., representing TV producer-director JOSEPH P. LANDIS (both were involved in the production of "If You NEED a Drink,"

meeting — I Came to Believe (Eden Roc Hotel).

2:30 — 4:30 PM: Four special panels.

(1) **AA and Industry.** Chm.: ANDY A. Speakers: C. ANTHONY D'ALONZO, MD, F.A.C.P., corporate medical director, E. I. du Pont de Nemours Company, Wilmington, Del.; HARRY H. HOLLOWAY, vice-

president personnel, Pacific Northwest Bell System, Seattle, Wash. "... We seek to slow the disease and then to assist the individual to reconstruct his behavior in order to reestablish his job efficiency and self-pride. We can, in his best interests, use the whip of dismissal to goad him into seeking help."

(2) AA and the Medical Profession. Chm.: TRAVIS E. DANCEY, MD. Speakers: STANLEY E. GITLOW,

lahassee, Fla.; JOHN NORFIELD, warden, Saskatchewan Penitentiary, Prince Albert, Sask. Statistics were cited to show a 47 percent rehabilitation rate for those who attend AA meetings in prison and after they are discharged, as opposed to a 25 percent rate for those who do not attend.

(4) AA and Educators. Chm.: ROLLIE D. Speakers: HARRISON M. TRICE, Ph.D., professor, Department

I sat at a lunch counter next to Fred, an AA from Cleveland. He told me a little old man had come up to him and said, with tears in his eyes, "I wish I could have what you've got, but it's too late for me."

"No, it isn't," said Fred. "Why don't you try?"

Fred then told me of a Cleveland man of sixty-five who had developed cancer by the time he decided to try AA. He got sober, bought himself a car, and devoted himself to taking people to meetings and taking welfare clients shopping. He had five years before the cancer finally got him — but they were the five best years of his life.

MD, internist and associate clinical professor of medicine, the Mount Sinai School of Medicine, New York, N.Y.; DR. MICHAEL H. BEAUBRUN, professor and chairman, Department of Psychiatry, University of the West Indies, Kingston, Jamaica. "Few psychiatrists today would reject AA outright, but many assign it too limited a role, accepting it with reservations and tending to refer to it only the most difficult of their patients... The fault is not only with the psychiatrists."

(3) AA and Prisons. Chm.: AUSTIN H. MACCORMICK. Speakers: LOUIE L. WAINWRIGHT, director, Florida Division of Corrections, Tal-

of Labor Relations, Cornell University, Ithaca, N.Y.; LAURA E. ROOT, research associate, Social Science Institute, and adjunct assistant professor, George Warren School of Social Work, St. Louis, Mo. "AA should share with and educate others to a greater extent."

2:30 — 4:30 PM: *Al-Anon meeting — the Twelve Steps Come Alive* (Eden Roc Hotel).

5:00 — 6:30 PM: *Al-Anon reception for Lois* (Eden Roc Hotel).

8:00 - 10:00 PM: Big AA meeting (Convention Hall).

Sunday, July 5

8:00 — 9:30 AM: *Breakfast for Bill and Lois, arranged by Al-Anon for*

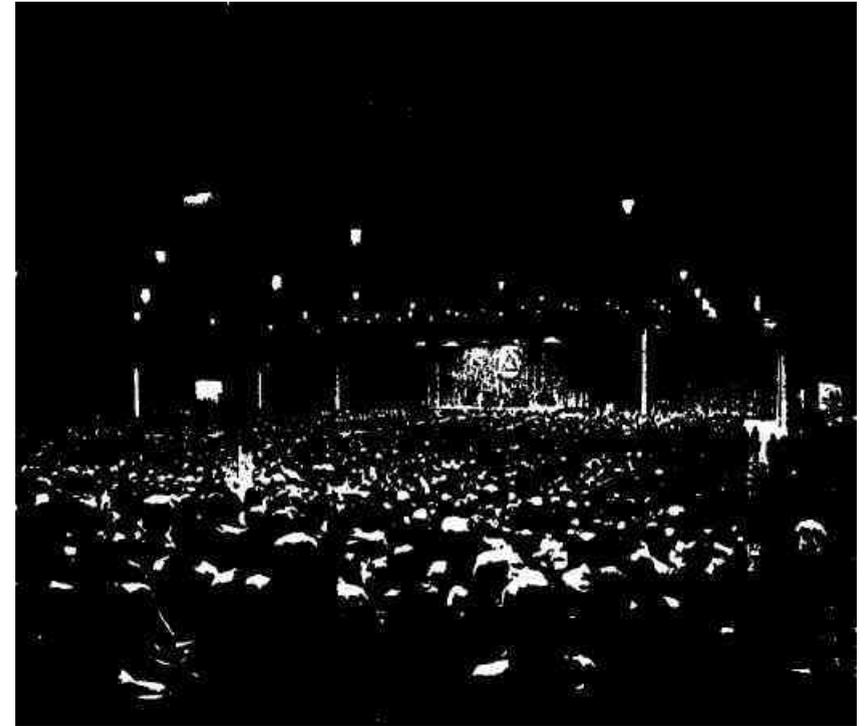
Al-Anons and AAs.

10:30 AM - 12:30 PM: Spiritual Meeting (Convention Hall).

Speakers: RT. REV. EVERETT H. JONES, D.D., retired bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of West Texas, San Antonio, Tex.; REV. JOHN C. FORD, S.J., professor emeritus of

Moral Theology, Weston College, Weston, Mass. *Two inspiring addresses and the memorable appearance of Bill W. with his brief but strong message.*

8:00 - 10:30 PM: The Big Show (Convention Hall), arranged by the Convention Host Committee.



11,000 sober alcoholics come together for an AA meeting in Convention Hall