

Have you seen the 0777news ?



The Big Book's Case of Mistaken Identity



The story of how one of AA's most famous slogans—"contempt before investigation"—took a long series of wrong turns to end up in the right place. For many alcoholics encountering the book *Alcoholics Anonymous* for the first time, a shock of recognition comes at the end of [Appendix II](#)—"Spiritual Experience"—when they read:

There is a principle which is a bar against all information, which is proof against all arguments and which cannot fail to keep a man in everlasting ignorance—that principle is contempt prior to investigation. —Herbert Spencer

Appendix II is a redefinition of spiritual experiences as they are mentioned in the first phrase of AAs Twelfth Step: having had "a spiritual awakening." Concerned that others might think an experience like his own—a lightning flash and a stentorian voice from above—was a necessary entry to sobriety, Bill Wilson explained in Appendix II that spiritual experiences can "develop over time." In fact, Bill wrote, anyone who is honest, willing and open to the idea of recovery has already had a kind of spiritual experience. Contempt prior to investigation, he implies, is the only barrier to spiritual recovery.

In fact, contempt prior to investigation is as much a symptom of alcoholism as cirrhosis of the liver, lying to your doctor or hiding the vodka bottle. What is the work of an obscure 19th-century British philosopher doing in *Alcoholics Anonymous*? The Big Book was written by a group of Americans, including Bill Wilson and other early members of AA (many relatively uneducated), and was published in 1938. The Spencer quotation is one of the few references to outside thinkers in the entire book. How did it get there?

A little investigation shows that this foundation pillar of the Big Book is as stable as the famous boiler that burst in Wombly's clapboard factory in AA's Tradition Four, a reference to the chaos that ensued when a group of alcoholics decided to establish an "alcoholic center," which would serve as a bank, a hospital and an educational system for drinkers. In fact, Herbert Spencer did not write the quotation in Appendix II at all, and Bill Wilson did not choose it for inclusion in *Alcoholics Anonymous*. Furthermore the quote itself is mangled and incorrect. Contempt prior to investigation is as much a symptom of alcoholism as cirrhosis of the liver.

Spencer, who coined the phrase "survival of the fittest" and who wrote that in marriage a ring is put on the finger of the bride and in the nose of the groom, was a liberal agnostic thinker whose many works on philosophy, psychology and sociology made him famous in 19th-century England. But one thing Spencer did *not* write is the immortal words about contempt and investigation, according to Michael St. George, who searched the digitized library of papers that Spencer left after his death and who detailed his findings in the [essay](#) "The Survival of a Fitting Quotation."

"Contempt before investigation" was penned almost a century earlier by another British philosopher, William Paley, whose book *Evidences of Christianity* contains the following sentence: "Contempt prior to examination is an intellectual vice, from which the greatest faculties of mind are not free. Paley was writing about Romans who scoffed at early Christianity. The Paley quotation, misattributed to Spencer, appeared in the first edition of *Alcoholics Anonymous* as the epigraph to

the personal stories. Ray Campbell, an artist who got sober through AA in 1938 and who was responsible for designing the first cover of *Alcoholics Anonymous*, wrote the story "An Artist's Concept." Probably 12-stepped by Bill Wilson himself, Campbell relates that the next day he met 20 men who were staying sober in AA. Campbell, who had rejected religion as a cure for his drinking problem, was deeply moved by the group. "It was not so much what these men told me in regard to their experiences that was impressive as it was a sense or feeling that an invisible influence was at work," he wrote. Campbell's story was dropped from the second edition of the Big Book, but Bill

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STEP NINE— Good judgment, a careful sense of timing, courage, and prudence—these are the qualities we shall need when we take Step Nine.

After we have made the list of people we have harmed, have reflected carefully upon each instance, and have tried to possess ourselves of the right attitude in which to proceed, we will see that the making of direct amends divides those we should approach into several classes. There will be those who ought to be dealt with just as soon as we become reasonably confident that we can maintain our sobriety. There will be other cases where action ought to be deferred, and still others in which by the very nature of the situation we shall never be able to make direct personal contact at all. Most of us begin making certain kinds of direct amends from the day

we join Alcoholics Anonymous. The moment we tell our families that we are really going to try the program, the process has begun. In this area there are seldom any questions of timing or caution. We want to come in the door shouting the good news. After coming from our first meeting, or perhaps after we have finished reading the book “Alcoholics Anonymous” we usually want to sit down with some member of the family and readily admit the damage we have done by our drinking. Almost always we want to go further and admit other defects that have made us hard to live with. This will be a very different occasion, and in sharp contrast with those hangover mornings when we alternated between reviling ourselves and blaming the family (and everyone else) for our troubles. At this first sitting, it is necessary only that we make a general admis-

our defects. It may be unwise at this stage to rehash certain harrowing episodes. Good judgment will suggest that we ought to take our time. While we may be quite willing to reveal the very worst, we must be sure to remember that we cannot buy our own peace of mind at the expense of others. Above all, we should try to be absolutely sure that we are not delaying because we are afraid. For the readiness to take the full consequences of our past acts, and to take responsibility for the well-being of others at the same time, is the very spirit of Step Nine

“Made direct amends to such people wherever possible, except when to do so would injure them or others.”

Twelve Steps and
Twelve Traditions

Tradition Nine When this tradition was first written, it said that ‘Alcoholics Anonymous needs the least possible organization.’ In years since then, we have changed our minds about that. Today, we are able to say with assurance that Alcoholics Anonymous — A.A. as a whole — should never be organized at all. Then, in seeming contradiction, we proceed to create special service boards and committees which in themselves are organized. How, then, can we have an unorganized movement which can and does create a service organization for itself? Scanning this puzzler, people say, “What do they mean, no organization?”

Well, let’s see. Did anyone ever hear of a nation, a church, a political party, even a benevolent association that had no membership rules? Did anyone ever hear of a society which

couldn’t somehow discipline its members and enforce obedience to necessary rules and regulations? Doesn’t nearly every society on earth give authority to some of its members to impose obedience upon the rest and to punish or expel offenders? Therefore, every nation, in fact every form of society has to be a government administered by human beings. Power to direct or govern is the essence of organization everywhere.

Yes, Alcoholics Anonymous is an exception. It does not conform to this pattern. Neither its General Service Conference, its Foundation Board, nor the humblest group committee can issue a single directive to an A.A. member and make it stick, let alone mete out any punishment. We’ve tried it lots of times, but utter failure is always the result. Groups have tried to expel Members, but the banished have come back to sit in the meeting place, saying, “This is

life for us; you can’t keep us out.” Committees have instructed many an A. A. to stop working on a chronic backslider, only to be told: “How I do my Twelfth Step work is my business. Who are you to judge?”

A.A. has to function, but at the same time it must avoid those

dangers of great wealth, prestige, and entrenched power which necessarily tempt other societies. Though Tradition Nine at first seems to deal with a purely practical matter, in its actual operations it discloses a society without organization, animated only by the spirit of service—a true fellowship.

“A.A. as such ought never be organized; but we may create service boards or committees directly responsible to those they serve.”

Twelve Steps and
Twelve Traditions

Wilson salvaged the epigraph as an afterword to the new Appendix II. In "The Survival of a Fitting Quotation," St. George traces the unlikely series of mistakes by which the phrase in Paley's *Evidence of Christianity* made its way into *Alcoholics Anonymous*.

The first misattribution was in a 1931 edition of *The Homeopathic World* by John Henry Clark. Bill Wilson's mother, Emily Griffith, was an osteopathic physician, and she may have given Clark's book to her son. (Both homeopaths and osteopaths practice holistic medicine.) Also in 1931, the phrase was misattributed to Spencer in *Miracles of Healing and How They Are Done* by J. Ellis Barker. St. George guesses that Ray Chapman may have read Ellis's book and been struck by the quotation. Who really came up with the phrase "contempt before investigation" and how it ended up in Appendix II in *Alcoholics Anonymous* may not matter much to anyone's actual recovery. Alcoholics love to scoff—at rules and regulations, at religion and God—until suddenly their lives are saved in spite of their scoffing. The quotation may be misattributed and mangled, but it still jumps off the page for anyone who thinks like an alcoholic. You read it. You see yourself. You know you are in the right place.

Susan Cheever, a regular columnist for the Fi, is the author of many books, including the memoirs *Home Before Dark* and *Note Found in a Bottle*, and the biography *My Name is Bill Wilson—His Life and the Creation of Alcoholics Anonymous*.

MEETING UPDATES

LIFE DISCUSSION OWD at 7 PM Wednesday has been discontinued.

NEW BEGINNINGS SPEAKER meeting 10534 Little Rd., at Gulf Coast Worship Center/Harvest Family has changed their format to OBB speaker meeting, Tuesday, 7pm

Please refer to meeting list at WPTSAA.org. for current information on all meetings in West Pasco Tarpon Springs area. If you need to make a change, please do so in writing at central office located at 7119 U. S. 19, New Port Richey, 34652 or email to 0777news@gmail.com

GRATITUDE DINNER COMING NOVEMBER 9, 2013.....STAY TUNED FOR MORE INFORMATION.

Activity at Central Office

Nightline calls.....55

Office calls.....62

Walk-ins.....36

Donation Addresses

Please make donation checks payable to: West Pasco Intergroup.

West Pasco/Tarpon Springs Intergroup

TREASURER
7121 US 19

New Port Richey, FL 34652
District 15 General

Service
TREASURER
P.O. Box 692

Elfers, FL 34680-0692
Area 15 General Service

Area 15 Treasurer
PO Box 206

Bradenton, FL 34206
AA General Service

Office
PO Box 459
Grand Central Station
New York, New York 10163



REPRESENTED AT INTER-GROUP August 2013

SUNDAY GRAT AM

NPR KISS

CAME TO BELIEVE

HOW IMPORTANT IS IT

TROPICAL ATTITUDES

4TH DIMENSION

Please Support Your Central Office

Sunday Hotline Office Staff for:

2 shifts daily Mon.-Fri.

10 AM - 1:30 PM

Or

1:30 PM- 5 PM 1 shift Sat.

10 AM - 1 PM

Contact Central Office for more information.

727-847-0777

TREASURER'S REPORT June 2013

| | |
|--------------------------|-------------------|
| Beginning Balance | \$3,259.96 |
| Income | \$1,558.90 |
| Expenses | \$1,672.18 |
| Ending Balance | \$3,146.68 |

ANNIVERSARIES IN SEPTEMBER

WHY IT WORKS

MICHAEL P. 3
 DIANNE E. 2
KEEP IT SIMPLE WOMENS
 MAUREEN L. 16
 MAXINE D. 7
 LU P. 1

LIVING SOBER STUDY

PAT B. 18
 TOMY D. 11

HAPPY JOYOUS FREE

BILL B. 13

LIFE GOES ON

JACK A. 38

PASCO BIG BOOK

DEBORAH F. 26
 DAVID L. 14
 MIKE P. 2
 BETTY S. 2
 TRIP M. 1

TWO OR MORE

KATE 37
 LINDA E. 9
 VALERIE 2
 JOSEPH D. 1
 HELEN R. 1
 WAYNE NONE GIVEN

LIFE GOES ON

JACK A. 36

AA WAY

BOB S. 28
 GARY D. 27
 JEFF U. 26
 BILL D. 24
 MICHELLE G. 18
 PATRICK B. 18
 ROBERT V. 8
 ROBERT D. 8

SERENITY GROUP

DONNA R. 21
 BILL B. 13

HOOT N HOLLER

ED H. 40
 FRANK S. 13
 JOHN J. 26
 MICKEY H. 13
 SAL C. 7

COTEE RIVER

PAT 16
 STEVE F. 13
 CHRISTINE 7

TROPICAL ATTITUDES

SPARKY 39
 CYNDIE M. 31
 PATRICK B. 18
 RALPH O. 16
 BONNIE C. 6

**IF YOU DO NOT SEE
 YOUR GROUP LISTED
 PLEASE FORWARD
 YOUR MEMBER LIST TO
 CENTRAL OFFICE AT
 7119 U. S. 19, NPR, FL
 34652 OR EMAIL
 0777news@gmail.com or
 dantico18@gmail.com
 THANK YOU**

JOIN THE INTERGROUP BIRTHDAY CLUB!
 Celebrate your years of recovery by giving a little something back!

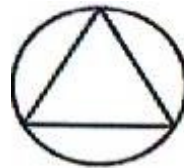
NAME _____
 EMAIL: _____
 SOBRIETY DATE: _____
 PHONE _____
 HOME GROUP: _____
 DONATION AMOUNT: _____

Deadline for news submissions for 0777news printing is the 20th of month prior to sobriety month.
 Suggested donation \$3.65 or more

BECOME A CARD CARRYING MEMBER

2013 BIRTHDAY CLUB CELEBRANTS

| <u>NAME</u> | <u>HOME GROUP</u> | <u>SOBRIETY DATE</u> |
|---------------|---------------------|----------------------|
| DOUG G. | HOW IMPORTANT IS IT | JAN. 29, 1988 |
| TOM C. | MIRACLE GROUP | OCT.16, 1999 |
| DOTTIE I. | HOW IMPORTANT IS IT | MAY 26, 1988 |
| DAN H. | | MAY 24, 2005 |
| MARCY I. | TROPICAL ATTITUDES | OCT. 26, 1983 |
| MARGUERITE L. | AMAZING GRACE | MAY 28, 2013 |
| BARBARA R. | 4TH DIMENSION | JUN 29, 1984 |
| DIANE D. | NEW HOPE BEGINNERS | JUN 30, 1986 |
| BEVERLY S. | NEW HOPE BEGINNERS | NONE GIVEN |



BIRTHDAY CLUB MEMBER PIN
 Mr. _____
 Ms. _____

For A Contribution of \$3.65 or More in Gratitude of Sobriety.

W. PASCO AA
 7121 US 19 - NPR, FL 34652

(727) 847-0777

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Non AA Events listed here are presented solely as a service to readers, not as an endorsement by the Newsletter Committee or General Service Office. For any additional information, please use the addresses/phone numbers provided.

Items and Ideas on Area Gatherings for A.A.s—

Sep 3: Corrections & Public Info/-CPC Committees both meet at Central Office, 7121 US 19, NPR. 6:30 pm. Members are needed.

Sep 7: Special Needs Committee, 12:00 pm, 7119 U. S. 19, New Port Richey.

Sep 10: Treatment Committee meeting 6:30 pm
7119 U. S. Hwy. 19, New Port Richey.

Sep 11: WPTSAA Intergroup meeting, 6:30 pm, Central Office, 7121 US 19, NPR. **Send a representative of your group.**

Sep 14: Hernando Unity Meeting 7:30-9 pm, Nativity Lutheran Church, 6363 Commercial Way (US 19), Spring Hill. Doors open at 6:30 pm.

Sep 17: District 15 Committee meeting, 6:30 pm, Central Office, 7121 U. S. 19 NPR. Come & learn. Each group should be represented. All AAs welcome.

Sep 21: Unity Meeting, 7 PM Redeemer Community Church, 9230 Ridge Rd. NPR, 1 mile E. of Little Rd., S. side. Host: New Hope Beginners Two speakers, fellowship, snacks. Doors open at 6:30.

Sep 26: Pasco Big Book monthly Eating Meeting at 7 pm, followed by member anniversaries speakers meeting at 8 pm. Edna Ave. Club, 7137 Edna Ave., Hudson. "Bring a dish if you can."

Sep 28: Archives Committee meeting, 12:00 pm
7119 U. S. 19, New Port Richey.

Future Events

Elsewhere Around the Globe

Sep. 5-8, 2013 : Seniors in Sobriety, 8th International conference, San Diego, CA, more info sandiegosis2013@gmail.com or 855-713-2300.

Sept. 6-8, 2013: Sisters by the Sea, Waldorf Astoria, Naples, 475 Seagate Drive, Speaker Meetings, Open Discussion Meeting, Workshops, Ask It Basket, featuring Polly P. from Jacksonville, FL. Info: Peggy 239-269-7654.



Oct. 25-27, 2013: Promises in Paradise, Caribbean Convention, Sugar Bay Resort & Spa, St. Thomas USVI. This year's speakers from Florida, Texas and Georgia. Golf, sailing or snorkeling adventure can be set up for you. Information at www.promisesinparadise.com

Nov. 13, 2013: Brilliance of the Seas, Sail to the beautiful Western Caribbean, prices include door to door transportation. Mention the Boyers when booking please. For reservations 727-372-1232 www.CruiseWarehouse.com

The Newsletter Committee is soliciting info about any AA Activities; group events, dances, picnics etc. Submit info by 20th of the month prior to publication to: 0777news@gmail.com or dantico18@gmail.com
Subject: Newsletter

Or deliver or mail to: Attn: Newsletter Editor
West Pasco/Tarpon Springs Intergroup
7121 US 19, New Port Richey, FL 34652

If you find mistakes in this newsletter, please consider that they are there for a purpose. We publish something for everyone, and some people are always looking for mistakes.

Please keep in mind the seventh tradition: Every A. A. group ought to be fully self supporting, declining outside contributions. That means Central Office is supported by your group contributions. Thanks for your support!

| GROUP DONATIONS | JAN | FEB | MAR | APR | MAY | JUN | JUL | AUG | TOTAL |
|-------------------------------|-------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|--------------------|
| 24 Hour Group | | 5.00 | 10.00 | | | | | | \$ 15.00 |
| 1001 Reasons | | | 20.00 | | | | | | \$ 20.00 |
| 3 & 11 Group | 20.00 | | 30.00 | 30.00 | 20.00 | | 10.00 | 20.00 | \$ 130.00 |
| 4th Dimension | | | | 200.00 | | | | | \$ 200.00 |
| 7 & Up Group | 100.00 | | | | 130.00 | | | | \$ 230.00 |
| A Club Saturday AM Big Book | | | | 50.00 | | | 40.00 | | \$ 90.00 |
| A Club Sunday AM Gratitude | 100.00 | | | | | | 100.00 | | \$ 200.00 |
| Amazing Grace | | | 141.31 | | | | | | \$ 141.31 |
| Anonymous | | 80.00 | | | 6.00 | | 6.15 | 14.43 | \$ 106.58 |
| As Bill Saw It | | 25.00 | | | | | | | \$ 25.00 |
| Birthday Club | | | | 38.00 | 29.00 | 53.65 | 29.00 | | \$ 149.65 |
| Black Book | 13.00 | | | | | | | | \$ 13.00 |
| Brown Baggers | | 20.00 | | | | | | | \$ 20.00 |
| Came to Believe | | | | 40.00 | | | | | \$ 40.00 |
| Committee Meetings | | | | 10.00 | | | | | \$ 10.00 |
| Daily Reflection | 20.00 | 20.00 | 28.00 | 10.00 | 32.00 | 20.00 | 40.00 | 40.00 | \$ 210.00 |
| Discover the Truth | | | | | 20.00 | 30.00 | 20.00 | 40.00 | \$ 110.00 |
| District 15 | 474.00 | | | | | | | | \$ 474.00 |
| Each Day New Beginning | | | | 30.00 | | | | | \$ 30.00 |
| Easier Softer Way | | | | | 50.00 | | | | \$ 50.00 |
| Experience, Strength and Hope | | | | | | | 22.00 | 40.00 | \$ 62.00 |
| Friday 12 X 12 | 30.00 | 16.00 | 30.00 | | 10.00 | 20.00 | | 10.00 | \$ 116.00 |
| Happier Hour | | | 200.00 | | | | | | \$ 200.00 |
| How Important Is It | 180.00 | | | | | | | | \$ 180.00 |
| Intergroup | 27.00 | 16.00 | 18.00 | 21.00 | 11.00 | 14.00 | 14.00 | 8.00 | \$ 129.00 |
| KIS Women's Group | | 70.00 | | | | 50.00 | | | \$ 120.00 |
| Let's Get Better Together | | | 104.00 | | | | | | \$ 104.00 |
| Life Discussion Group | | | | | | | | 77.00 | \$ 77.00 |
| Living Sober Study Group | 20.00 | | | | | 20.00 | | | \$ 40.00 |
| Meeting Room 12 X 12 | | | | 10.00 | 10.00 | | 30.00 | 20.00 | \$ 70.00 |
| Meeting Room Big Book | | | 5.00 | 7.00 | 20.00 | 30.00 | 30.00 | 40.00 | \$ 132.00 |
| Misc. | | 11.50 | | | 10.00 | | | | \$ 21.50 |
| New Beginnings | | | 8.00 | | | | | | \$ 8.00 |
| New Hope Beginners | 35.00 | | | 30.00 | | | | | \$ 65.00 |
| New Life Group | | | 20.00 | | | | | | \$ 20.00 |
| Noon High | 48.32 | | | | | | | | \$ 48.32 |
| NPR KISS Group | 10.00 | | 10.00 | | | 40.00 | | | \$ 60.00 |
| Pasco Big Book | 120.00 | | | | | | | | \$ 120.00 |
| Primary Purpose | 30.00 | 20.00 | 20.00 | 40.00 | 40.00 | 20.00 | 40.00 | 25.00 | \$ 235.00 |
| Serenity Group | | 75.00 | | | | 75.00 | | | \$ 150.00 |
| Sober Not Dead | | 62.25 | | | | | | | \$ 62.25 |
| Sisters In Sobriety | | | | | 31.00 | 20.00 | 30.00 | 40.00 | \$ 121.00 |
| Thursday 12 & 12 | | | | | | | | 10.00 | \$ 10.00 |
| Tropical Attitudes | 60.00 | | 60.00 | 60.00 | | | 60.00 | 60.00 | \$ 300.00 |
| Tuesday's Children | 52.00 | 28.00 | 10.00 | 51.00 | 45.00 | 21.00 | 40.00 | 30.00 | \$ 277.00 |
| Two or More | 61.00 | 55.00 | 53.00 | 44.00 | 74.00 | 61.00 | 118.40 | 71.00 | \$ 537.40 |
| Unity Meeting | 22.50 | 28.00 | | | | | | | \$ 50.50 |
| Why It Works | | 50.00 | | | | | 35.00 | | \$ 85.00 |
| Wonderful Step Group | | | 110.00 | | | | | | \$ 110.00 |
| Young Sobriety | 20.00 | 22.00 | 30.00 | 30.00 | 17.25 | 28.00 | 15.75 | 2.10 | \$ 165.10 |
| TOTALS | \$1,442.82 | \$603.75 | \$907.31 | \$701.00 | \$538.00 | \$502.65 | \$680.30 | \$545.43 | \$ 5,940.61 |

ONLY GROUPS WHO CONTRIBUTED ARE LISTED. IF YOU DO NOT SEE YOUR GROUP LISTED YOU MAY HAVE MISSED THE CUTOFF DATE (20TH) FOR THE MONTH AND YOUR CONTRIBUTION WILL BE LISTED IN THE NEXT ISSUE.