

# MOUNTAIN DOIN'S

October, 1976

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Newsletter of the Western North Carolina Intergroup,  
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## DISTRICT EIGHT TO MEET OCT. 10

The next area meeting for District Eight will be held on Sunday, Oct. 10, at 1:30 p.m. in the Grace Episcopal Church in Waynesville.

The Grace Group of Waynesville will be the host for the meeting and a speaker will be on the program.

## DISTRICT SEVEN TO HEAR EARL D.

A meeting of District Seven has been scheduled for Sunday, Nov. 7, at St. James Episcopal Church in Hendersonville. The meeting will start at 1:30 p.m. and Earl D. of Greensboro will speak.

## INTERGROUP BOARD MEETING

The board of the Intergroup of Western North Carolina will hold its next meeting on Sunday, Oct. 17, at 3:00 p.m. All board members are urged to attend.

# We Are Obsessed

Because the writer of the following essay is an alcoholic and did not wish to be identified, Observer editors have withheld his name.

I suppose that after the recent revelations of the famous, not-so-famous and would-be-famous that they were alcoholics, it was inevitable that we would hear a defense of that wonderful drug, beverage alcohol. And, indeed, it was not long until we heard from the Rand Corp. and Rutgers University the "glad tidings."

Some alcoholics, they said, could return to social drinking. Ostensibly, their reports were in the interest of alcoholics, but if we look closely at the reports we see that they are pro-alcohol messages of the most subtle sort. They say, in effect, to the alcoholic: "Hey, if you can't drink this wonderful stuff, you're abnormal, and the only way to be normal is to drink this fantastic juice. You can do it!"

The importance of alcohol in this society is incredible. We say that the foundation of our society are God and country. In practice, booze is more important than God or country or anything else. For instance, upon entering a home or a business, I have never been asked if I would like to pray, nor have I been asked to recite the pledge of allegiance to the flag, but on innumerable occasions I have been asked if I wanted a drink.

Consider our legislature. Every session they spend a fantastic amount of time discussing one

thing. And what is that thing? — Booze!

Think about it: What is really important in this society? Is it really God, country, motherhood, apple pie — or booze?

Society uses every dodge in the book to protect this precious substance. It stands, martini in hand, pointing to its wayward children who take drugs, smoke pot, or sniff glue. It condemns alcoholics as moral weaklings. Why? Because they dare to get sick on booze. It even refers to alcoholics as "alcohol abusers" — i.e. they abuse booze.

This is hypocrisy. Alcohol is as much a drug as pot or glue. It causes deleterious effects to many who drink it. It abuses some people. As evidence of this, alcoholics outnumber drug addicts by at least 20 to one. But our society must hide the fact that this wonderful elixir makes some people sick as hell. And this reveals society's sickness. I am not in favor of glue or pot or anything else that artificially alters a person's relationship to his or her environment; I'm trying to point up the fantastic obsession of our society with alcohol.

I am an alcoholic, but I have been sober a long time. I daresay that I've dealt with more alcoholics on a personal, head-to-head basis than the Rand Corp. and Rutgers combined. Let them, if they will, come down from their mental, "objective" ivory towers into the real

# With Booze

world and get on the firing line with the drunks. Let them deal with vomiting, dry heaves, convulsions, hallucinations, and "dt's." Let them see the hollow-eyed, terrified wives and children. Let them live in the realities produced by this "wonderful" juice.

If they do, they'll find out what I, and thousands of others like me, have found out first hand — from actual experience — that no real alcoholic can return to successful drinking. I have watched many try, and have seen them without fail end up in mental institutions or graveyards.

These are facts from my experience in dealing with real people, and they are quite different from

the facts gathered by those who deal only with statistics. A little vomit on their vests might change the minds of some of these great thinkers. Some people can drink, so let them. Alcoholics cannot drink, so don't try to tell them they can. It's tantamount to murder to do so.

Why is it so damned important to some people that alcoholics be able to drink socially?

Well, I, an alcoholic, have news for our society, I don't want to drink socially. I, and thousands like me, don't want to drink, period. You see, we no longer have a need for a drug. We have found a way to live comfortably in reality. We have no need for drug-induced illusion.

We must look askance at those who say we should become drug-dependent people again. Feelings are better without booze, thinking is clearer, eating is better, sex is better, life is better in a natural, human state. Why do they want us to go back to a drugged state? So, Rand, Rutgers, and all the rest, cease, if you will, your efforts in my behalf. I don't want to be drugged again, and I won't buy what you're selling, because, you see, alcohol no longer holds the significance for me that it does for you.

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## BIRTHDAYS

(Slightly past, present, and a little future)

J.R.H., of Brevard. Two years  
Dot G., three years in September.  
W. McL., Blue Ridge Group, October.  
Don O., Blue Ridge Group, November.  
Woody O., Blue Ridge Group, November  
Don H., Trinity Service Group, one year.  
Jim H., 12-Step Study Group, five years.  
Brenda P., Serenity Group, two years.

(Editor's note: An AA birthday, as contrasted to a calendar birthday, is a significant milestone in the life of an AA member.

Most of us in the program already have passed so many calendar birthdays that the novelty of the thing has sort of worn off. But an AA birthday is something else. It calls for some recognition.

The Mountain Doin's editors are happy to afford some recognition, whenever they hear about a member passing a birthday. Please help us by calling the Intergroup office whenever they occur.

Anyone who can put together a whole year one day at a time deserves the congratulations of all of us.

## A REMINDER

Intergroup is your organization. It exists only to provide services for you and for the program. It depends on your support.