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Ann Landers.

**The Healing Place**

At the invitation of Tony Simeone and Sheral Allen, Substance Abuse Specialists at the Wake AHEC General, Vascular, Thoracic, and Trauma Surgery at WakeMed Center, Bill B. and I went there and met with them. (Bill B., for those who don't already know it, is perhaps the numero uno volunteer for the Tri-County InterGroup Office. I, Chuck B., am the current Camel 24 No. 1. go-for.)

The purpose of the meeting was informational, for us to find out who they are; for them, to find out who we are and what, if anything, we might do to facilitate, coordinate, expedite their efforts in treating and caring for patients who suffer with alcoholism and its related conditions. What we learned is a much clearer understanding of the divisions of labor among the professionals who treat alcoholism in the area.

First, the work of our hosts at WakeMed. Many patients admitted to their area suffering from alcoholism are destitute, lacking insurance, and ineligible for admission to ATC; too, they likely have conditions which definitely require full hospitalization. Further, a good many of these people are homeless. The service desired by Tony and Sheral is to have a list of names of persons who are willing to come out to the hospital and meet one-on-one with a patient, when that patient has indicated a desire to meet with an AA member.

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**Camel 24 Open**

This August 23, 1999, The Ninth Annual Camel 24 Open is happening at Prestonwood Country Club in Cary, N.C.

The Club needs volunteers to help with the festivities for the day and players and sponsors. If you would like to help, contact Kathy G. or the office at the club.



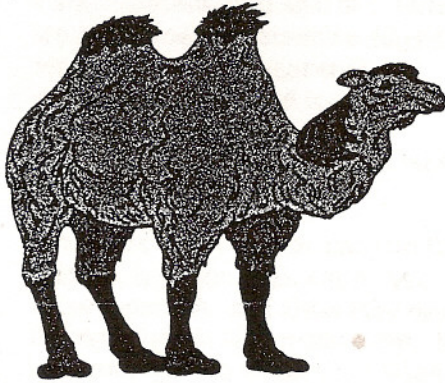
PASS IT ON

## Upcoming Events

Pig Pickin coming in September!

Volleyball on Sunday afternoons!

August 23, 1999 Camel 24 Open,  
Prestonwood Country Club 11:00am.



## Camel News

The Club owes a big round of applause to **Andy Boyette**, who is neither a member of the Club, nor of the greater Fellowship. **Andy** just contributed and installed the panic bars on the rear doors to the Club. I will not print the amount those bars cost, but they are quite expensive, and that contribution by him saves us a considerable amount of money. That's money which would have been required to bring us into compliance with the city's fire safety code. We were inspected recently, and told that the bolts on the back doors had to go and be replaced with panic bars. Thanks to **Andy Boyette**, that is done and we are in compliance.

We were all concerned to learn of the swimming pool accident suffered by our manager, **Kathy G.** According to reports, **Kathy** came in contact with the bottom of the pool with considerable force, cutting her lips and scraping and cutting part of her face. The report is that some 25

stitches were required to close the cuts, and she possibly will have to go under the care of a plastic surgeon to clear up all the wounds. We all wish her well, and **Kathy**, call on us if there is something we can do for you during your healing time. You're in our thoughts and prayers. God Bless.

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It was explained to them that objective could best be met through the respective AA Groups and their Institutional Representatives, as well as information coming from the InterGroup Office to the several Groups in the Tri-Counties. It was suggested, and agreed to by Tony and Sheral, that they will develop a flyer for distribution to the Groups in which the objectives of WakeMed are stated. The Camel Club agreed to display their flyer at AA meetings at the Club. The majority of the patients in this unit are from Wake County.

Second, "The Healing Place". I learned at this meeting, and in a subsequent telephone conversation with Dennis P., Director of The Healing Place, that I had in error lumped the WakeMed activity with The Healing Place. I learned that they are totally separate, even though WakeMed gave The Healing Place \$2 million dollars (\$2,000,000.00) to get it started. I had reported that The Healing Place was to be administered through WakeMed. It is not.

The Healing Place, Directed by Dennis P. (Dennis used to hold the position at WakeMed now filled by Tony Simeone.), is a private, not-for-profit organization - presently about 70% corporate donations, and 30% State and County funds - with an objective to become wholly private. The Healing Place is

✓ patterned after the original in Louisville, KY.

A few years ago some Raleigh executives interested in programs which are effective in combating alcoholism made an on-site visit to Louisville to learn of that program. Impressed, they came back with the determination to establish a counterpart program here. They generated interest and got the private donations to get it started, along with getting State and County support at several levels.

To govern The Healing Place there is a Board of Directors, comprised primarily by people who have a genuine interest in the success of the project, and from the organizations and companies which provided the seed money from the private sector. Dennis described the program as, "This is a black belt 12 Step Program approach to recovery. There will be no games with insurance. No one will tell us how to do it. The 'Joe and Charlie' tapes will be used; taught by the people themselves."

The predicate for the Louisville program, and that used to justify its counterpart here, was a reality manifested to a task force studying the problems of the homeless in Louisville, and here in Raleigh. That reality was that 60 to 80% of the homeless population had substance abuse problems. So, the target population for The Healing Place is the homeless who have substance abuse problems.

Dennis said they are getting excellent cooperation and support from the State and County governments, as well as from the professional health care institutions in the city and county. Rex and Raleigh Community Hospitals have made verbal commitments to assist when called upon. At this time, The Healing Place has leased 4.5 acres of land from the State at the corner of

Lake Wheeler Rd. and Goode St. It is a long term lease. There is a plan to construct a 43 to 45 thousand square foot facility. The initial start up population is planned at 165 males, with a plan to double that number after a few years, as well as comparable facilities for females.

I asked Dennis what kind of criteria would be used to determine eligibility for admission for treatment? His answer was direct and concise, "If you have a substance abuse problem, and your name is not on a mortgage."

There are many people who join Bill and me in saluting this effort. We know Dennis P., and know they have the right man in leadership there. It is encouraging to witness this effort to provide the hope of early sheltered recovery to so many free of the cancerous greed and avarice which define too much of what passes for "treatment" today.

In summary, it was suggested to Tony and Sheral that they might want to provide space for meetings in the hospital, with, again, those details being ironed out by the Groups and their Institutional Representatives. At some point down the road, the same exchange will be a possibility with The Healing Place.

I hope this makes things a bit clearer for you. It certainly does for me.

Chuck B.



## An Essay On Maturity

By Ann Landers

**M**aturity is many things. It is the ability to base a judgment on the big picture, the long haul. It means being able to resist the urge for immediate gratification and opt for the course of action that will pay off later. One of the characteristics of the young is "I want it now." Grown-up people can wait.

**M**aturity is perseverance — the ability to sweat out a project or a situation in spite of heavy opposition and discouraging setbacks, and stick with it until it is finished. The adult who is constantly changing jobs, changing friends and changing mates is immature. He cannot stick it out because he has not grown up.

**M**aturity is the ability to control anger and settle differences without violence or destruction. The mature person can face unpleasantness, frustration, discomfort and defeat without collapsing or complaining. He knows he can't have everything his own way every time. He is able to defer to circumstances, to other people — and to time. He knows when to compromise and is not too proud to do it. Maturity is humility. It is being big enough to say, "I was wrong." And, when he is right, the mature person need not experience the satisfaction of saying, "I told you so."

**M**aturity is the ability to live up to your responsibilities, and this means being dependable. It means keeping your word. Dependability is the hallmark of integrity. Do you mean what you say — and do you say what you mean? Unfortunately, the world is filled with people who can't be counted on. When you need them most, they are among the missing. They never seem to come through in the clutches. They break promises and substitute alibis for performance. They show up late or not at all. They are confused and disorganized. Their lives are a chaotic maze of broken promises, former friends, unfinished business and good intentions that somehow never materialize. They are always a day late and a dollar short.

**M**aturity is the ability to make a decision and stand by it. Immature people spend their lives exploring endless possibilities and then do nothing. Action requires courage. Without courage, little is accomplished.

**M**aturity is the ability to harness your abilities and your energies and do more than is expected. The mature person refuses to settle for mediocrity. He would rather aim high and miss the mark than aim low — and make it.

**M**aturity is the art of living in peace with that which we cannot change, the courage to change that which should be changed, no matter what it takes, and the wisdom to know the difference.

