



SANITY

A TRIBUTE TO A FALLEN ADDICT

Every now and then a story grabs your heart and leaves you with a tear in your eye. The following is such a story.

There was a young man from Middlesex who grabbed the hearts of all who knew him. One of his friends described him thusly:

"Jake was loved by anyone he ever met! He was the first person to give you a hug and make you laugh! He had the most amazing and twisted sense of humor. His passion was music and he always had a way with words."

Another friend wrote in a blog: "I was a close friend of Jake's for several years. Jake was always kind, always there when you needed him, and a great person. People make mistakes with drugs and alcohol but that doesn't make them bad people. ... I just hope that all of Jake's friends and family find peace because it's been really hard dealing with this."

Jake died at the tender age of 23 with 18 months of cleantime. The recovering addicts in the Middlesex Area had to come to grips with a sad chapter in their recovery when they heard the news that on January 12, 2009, Jake was shot and killed by two police officers. It is not known what the outcome of the investigation was in regards to why the officers had to take such drastic actions, but no matter what that investigation yields, the painful truth is that the Fellowship lost a trusted servant who was loved by all who met him and a grieving family lost a son.

Jake's mother, who has been described as a wonderfully amazing woman, had the heartbreaking task of sorting through Jake's belongings. She came upon some prose that Jake had penned and found the following to be particularly appropriate. His Mom asked if I would publish it in Sanity in memory of her beloved son.

Tonight, the World Sleeps with Me

by Jake Olson

In the river, there was a wise old fish
This fish spoke to me,
metaphorically speaking of course

He said to me,
"Boy let me share my **experience**"

He told me of trials and tribulations
He told me of joys and thankfulness

The trial was done
The joy followed
Life goes on, The world sleeps

In the woods, there was a great bear
This bear spoke to me,
metaphorically speaking of course

He said to me "Boy, let me share my **strength**"
He told me of wars and battles
He told me of victory and defeat

The battles were won
Victory was ours
Life goes on, The world sleeps

In the sky, there was a god
This god spoke to me,
metaphorically speaking of course

He said to me, "Boy, let me share my **hope**"
He told me of prophecies and predictions
He told me everything was going to be okay
and he was right

The prophecies held true
Everything's okay
Life goes on, The world sleeps

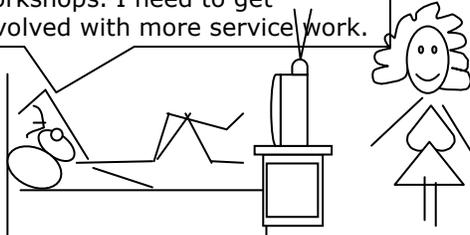
Yes, I now can sleep,
Knowing,
Tonight, the world sleeps with me.

The Adventures of Nicky Newcomer



Cookie, will you hurry up. Come on babe already, this is the Convention and you are taking too long to get ready.

I want to get to a couple of the workshops. I need to get involved with more service work.



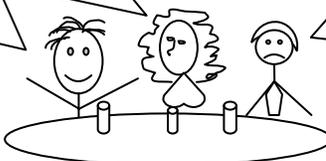
Nicky, you are such an addict! You are using me as an excuse. Get up off your duff and go mingle. I have three Sponsees here and we are going to do women-stuff. Go find Sparky or Otto and hang with them. Maybe T T is here and he always needs someone to kiss his butt.



My name is Reggie and I am an addict from Alabama. I would like to thank you for inviting me to NJRCNA XXIV

Oh wow, can I really relate to that! I did the same thing trying to get out of trouble!

Hahahahaha, hehe, Reggie is so funny!



Holy cow, he is telling parts of my story. This is bringing up some old issues with me, but it is making me realize that I am not alone. Other people did the same things I did. I feel like I am reading my own Fourth Step. I am so grateful to be clean today.

Good Morning, I'm Sean and I am an addict.



Geez, I am not the only one who felt unloved as a child. My father was so mean to me.

... Sean has had me crying four times already. What an incredible life he had and manages to stay clean



I have to buy Sean's CD to give to my Sponsees who are not here to hear it. This is truly a message of hope. Raising a baby as a single Dad, wow. Bucky needs to hear this. Overcoming anger through working the Steps is a beautiful concept. Butch can benefit from hearing that message.

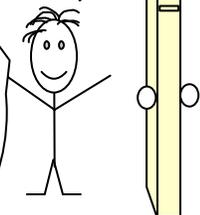
So many people in NA come from incarceration. I used to feel isolated, but hearing these stories gives me the hope I need to hear.

Nicky, the meeting on Grief was so touching and the speakers were so good. It had everyone in the room in tears and we could all relate.



I can't wait until next year when we celebrate our NJRCNA XXV convention. That will be awesome.

I went to three service workshops. I am going to start going to committee meetings and give back what was so freely given to me. I need to get more involved with NA.



MD

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Sanity is published every two months as a service of the New Jersey Region for its Groups and Members. Input and articles are welcome on all recovery related topics.

Opinions expressed here are those of individual addicts, not NA as a whole.

Issues of SANITY can be downloaded from the NJ Statewide Website at www.nani.org

Words of Wisdom: Be there!