

FAR OUT TO PHIZ-ZAT December 19, 2005

HOST: Good afternoon. Welcome to Far Out to Phiz Zat, a forum for comparing and contrasting how cultural, societal, and economic changes have impacted both AA and AA members. I'm your host Chip Mycro. Since the theme of our workshop today is "Service, Sponsorship, and Self-Support in a changing world" we thought it would be fun to get some concrete examples from two AA members from different time periods. So please help me welcome from the year 1976, Bill Bellbottom!

(Bill enters as "Play That Funky Music" by Wild Cherry plays and then he sits)

HOST: And from the present year, 2006, give it up for Susan Y. Fie!

(Susan enters as "Vertigo" by U2 plays and sits)

HOST: Welcome to the both of you. All righty then, let's get right down to it. There have been numerous changes in the world since 1976 and of course that affects Alcoholics Anonymous as well. First off, the title of our forum may need some explanation. So Bill, what do people say to express that something is very good or excellent or first-rate in 1976?

BILL: Well, Chip, we say it's groovy, far-out, out-a-sight, or righteous. Or if it's really good, you can say it's *(with emphasis)* "bad".

HOST: Okay, and Susan what is a popular saying used in 2006 to express the same thing?

SUSAN: Well Chip, I have an eighteen year old sponsee and she says "phiz zat".

HOST: All right and for those of us who don't have numerous body piercings, what exactly does that mean, Susan?

SUSAN: It means "phat" spelled p-h-a-t and it is a great compliment. But it wasn't cool enough to just say "phat" so using a variation of Pig Latin whereby you break the word up into syllables by adding a z to the last and first parts they came up with "phiz zat".

HOST: And who came up with this phrase?

SUSAN: Well, it's impossible to pinpoint, but it was popularized by the rapper Snoop Dogg.

BILL: Excuse me; Charlie Brown's dog came up with this?

SUSAN: No, no, not *Snoopy*. *Snoop Dogg*. You see, Snoop Dogg's a...uh, rapper...oh, it's gonna be hard to explain what rapping is to someone from 1976.

BILL: Hey, I'm not stupid baby! We have rap sessions where I'm from!

SUSAN: Can we just skip it?

BILL: Okay, but the gist of it is that calling someone fat in 2006 is a compliment, correct?

SUSAN: Correct.

BILL: Far out!

HOST: Okay, so that's where we get our name from, Far Out to Phiz Zat. Let's move along shall we? Bill, how do you get to and from meetings and AA service functions in 1976?

BILL: Well Chip, I used to hitchhike.

HOST: Did you have trouble getting rides?

BILL: Not at all. I found that when I wore my "Keep on Truckin" T-shirt and skin-tight bicentennial red, white and blue striped polyester pants the chicks really dug it and I could always get a ride.

HOST: I'll bet. I could tell by the way you used your walk that you're a woman's man, but anyway do you still hitchhike.

BILL: No, now I drive my brand spankin' new 1976 Ford Pinto. It gets great gas mileage and is a state of the art driving machine.

SUSAN: A Pinto? State of the art? Well, I guess if you call your gas tank exploding state of the art then it is.

BILL: (*alarmed*) What? What do you mean?

HOST: Susan! Please remember what we talked about before the show! Part of the deal with bringing Bill here from the past was that we should not reveal too many things which could cause a cataclysmic ripple effect on the time/space continuum and end all life in the galaxy as we know it!

SUSAN: Oh, yeah. That would be a bad thing.

BILL: Wait a minute! What was that about my car exploding...?

SUSAN: Oh...nothing. I, I was just kidding. But...you might consider wearing a helmet and fireproof suit when you're cruising that Pinto to your next meeting hint hint.

HOST: Okay, and how do you get to AA functions in 2006, Susan?

SUSAN: Well Chip, I drive a hybrid vehicle which is both fuel efficient and environmentally friendly.

HOST: What make of car is it, Susan?

SUSAN: It's a Toyota.

BILL: A Toy-oda? You're making fun of my car and you drive a toy? Sheesh!

HOST: Okay, we're moving along. Now if you are with a sponsee and stop to get a quick bite to eat, Bill, where might you go?

BILL: One of my favorite places to eat is Kentucky Fried Chicken. The Colonel's 11 herbs and spices are dee-licious. Do you guys still have Kentucky Fried Chicken in 2006?

SUSAN: Nope. We now have...KFC. You see, corporations discovered that people will still buy greasy, fattening, artery-clogging but tasty food if you

just changed what you called it. Fried is the new “F-word” in health-conscious 2006.

BILL: So Kentucky Fried Chicken is not actually fried in your time?

SUSAN: Oh, sure it is but we just don’t say it out loud anymore.

HOST: Interesting. Let’s move along. Now, Bill, let’s say you have a sponsee over your house working the steps: after you’re done, how might you relax?

BILL: Glad you asked. I just upgraded my TV to a brand new color Magnavox and I can watch any channel—ABC, CBS, or NBC—in realistic color. The deluxe rabbit ear antennas capture an incredibly lifelike image and it even comes with a remote control that has a ten foot extension cord.

HOST: *(in an underwhelmed tone)* Wow. What are some of your favorite TV shows?

BILL: Sometimes me and my sponsee watch “The Odd Couple” or “Welcome Back Kotter” but I’m not a big fan of those shows. I mean, there are probably way better shows on in 2006.

SUSAN: Well, my high definition plasma TV and surround sound home theater system would probably blow you away Bill, but “The Odd Couple” still beats the heck outta “Jerry Springer” no matter what you watch it on!

HOST: I have to agree with that. Now let’s go on to...

BILL: *(interrupting)* Oh! Wait a second! I have something else entertainment-wise I wanna talk about!

HOST: Okay, go ahead Bill.

BILL: It’s a revolutionary game that has been a real hit with my sponsees. It’s called “Pong”. It’s like ping pong but, get this, *you actually play it on your TV screen*. It’s amazing! This little dot goes back and forth and then you hit it with your paddle –BEEP-and it keeps score when someone misses it. The really cool part is when it goes fast –BEEP BEEP! Bethca don’t have anything that cool in your time!

SUSAN: Actually, my young sponsees hang out and play games on my new X Box 360 at my house. It's the absolute cutting edge in high definition video gaming.

BILL: Yeah, but can it go BEEP BEEP!?! (*proudly*) Didn't think so.

HOST: What about music? While we were all out there drinking, music was the soundtrack to our lives and that doesn't change when we get sober. What are you listening to these days, Bill?

BILL: On my 8-track player at home right now I have the newest Rolling Stones album.

HOST: And you Susan?

SUSAN: On my MP3 player at home right now I have the newest Rolling Stones album.

BILL: Far out!

SUSAN: Phiz-zat!

BILL: Gimme five! (*holds out hand and Susan gives him five*)

SUSAN: Up high! (*she holds hand up and Bill slowly gives her a high five*)

BILL: (*in wonderment*) A high five. Cool!

HOST: Okay we've talked about peripheral things, but let's get down to the nuts and bolts of AA stuff: what does AA sponsorship look like in 1976 Bill?

BILL: Well, Chip, I usually tell my new pigeons or sponsees to take the cotton out of their ears and put it in their mouths. I tell them to call me every day, and to read AA literature whenever they can.

HOST: Very good, Susan?

SUSAN: Well, Chip, I don't tell my sponsees to take the cotton out of their ears and all that, I mean, I wouldn't want to hurt their feelings or damage their fragile self-esteem. I strongly suggest they call, email, fax or text message me daily. I encourage them to read AA literature as either a hard copy or on the World Wide Web whenever they can.

BILL: The what? Did you say "the world wide web"? In the future are we going to be attacked by giant spiders from outer space or something? Aw man, first I find out my car's gonna explode and now giant mutant spiders attack the earth!?

SUSAN: Calm down Pet Rock Boy! No, there was no alien attack.

HOST: Okay, now tell us about AA service in 1976 Bill.

BILL: My sponsees get into service as soon as possible. Washing out ashtrays and coffee cups are great ways to start. Our main challenge is getting more people interested in general service.

BILL: What's the 2006 view of AA service, Susan?

SUSAN: Well, Chip, the meetings where I live are non-smoking and we use Styrofoam cups, but they are still many ways for newcomers to serve. And like Bill we are still trying to get more people involved in general service.

BILL: Still? Maybe you guys should like add skits and fun stuff to your functions. Or better yet maybe you can do what I did at our last area assembly.

HOST: What did you do?

BILL: Well, right as the delegate was about to give his report I streaked across the stage! It was hilarious!

SUSAN: Streaked? You, you mean you were...

BILL: ...wearing just my smile and some bright red Converse, baby!

SUSAN: Thanks. Now I have to try and delete that image from my mind.

BILL: Hey, everyone thought it was a gas! Well, most everyone. There were a few uptight people who got offended. But I'm sure the judge will see it my way when I go to court next month.

HOST: All right, I'm completely freaked out right now so let's trudge along, shall we? What is self support like in 1976, Bill?

BILL: I can only speak for myself , Chip, but I try to put a buck in the basket at every meeting I go to.

HOST: Any you Susan?

SUSAN: I too put a buck in the basket at every meeting I attend, Chip.

BILL: Just a buck? So you can still get a cup of coffee for twenty cents in 2006?

SUSAN: Well, no...I...uh...

BILL: So AA members are still cheapskates in 2006, huh?

SUSAN: Who you callin' a cheapskate, Disco Duck? I'll bet you spend a lot more on your (*sarcastically*) "groovy threads" than you do on AA!

BILL: Are you tryin' to say I'm a hypocrite, lady?

SUSAN: Well, if the platform shoes fit...

HOST: Okay, you two knock it off! That's not what this forum is about!

SUSAN: You're right, Chip. I'm sorry Bill. I'm just pretty touchy because my caffeine levels are low.

BILL: Hey, that's all right, Susan, no problem. Listen, after this maybe we can get a cup of coffee. I went to this great place this morning called "Starbucks". They have all kinds of coffee. It's weird though, in the three blocks I walked to get here, I counted 14 of them.

HOST: Okay, time to wrap this up. To close our forum, I'd like to ask both participants what they feel is the core message of AA in their respective time periods. Bill, you're first.

BILL: I would say go to meetings, get a sponsor, work the steps, traditions and concepts, get into service, pass it on, and keep coming back!

HOST: Thank you Bill. Susan; your turn.

SUSAN: Go to meetings, get a sponsor, work the steps, traditions and concepts, get into service, pass it on, and keep coming back!

HOST: There you have it! The message of AA is timeless. Styles, fads and fashions change,--well, with the exception of the Rolling Stones--but our primary purpose stays the same. That's all we have for now. I'm Chip Mycro and see you next time on Far Out to Phiz Zat! Later on and peace out!

(“Play That Funky Vertigo” plays and they all dance)

THE END