

CHEEERS (((SOUNDBOARD)))

Volume 1

Issue 3

CHEEERS INC. 1950 W. Heatherbrae Drive, Ste #5, Phoenix, Az 85015

Pot and Peace – Meth and Death

By Michael Pierce

(Editor's note: Smoke Shop is approximately two minutes walking distance from our facility. It should be noted – within a mile radius – at least 12 other stores openly sell glass meth pipes).....

I have not been in a Smoke Shop for a long time. Being that I am not a smoker seemed like a sufficient reason. Last week I accompanied a friend to a local Smoke Shop near the vicinity of CHEEERS. Since I had no commercial purpose for my visit, I took a sort of social inventory of the situation. My observation was of a proliferation of weapons, knives, daggers, fake guns mixed with major quantities of glass pipes of such magnitude as to satisfy a segment of our 'thug' culture.

Being an old Hippie I was taken aback at such intermingling of drugs/violence. We have become a culture whereby nihilism and narcissism have conjoined. It is painfully evident that our 'War on Drugs' is a failure of tactics and strategy. Additional prisons are not the solution. We need to approach the root of this nightmare by asking ourselves why a generation has chosen death over life. Why have so many of our younger citizens given up in life? What is the role that the rest of us play in bringing about this epidemic?

There is no cure for societal national greed which has brought upon a lack of decent paying jobs for youth, exploitation by greedy Slumlords, rising tuition for those who desire college. We have brought about an unequal distribution of national wealth. There is an upper tier society that is content at the prospect of a divided and polarized America.

That crystal meth has so permeated our culture should not be the focus now, but rather what is to be done. We should abandon all illusions that meth will be easily or even permanently eradicated. As a society, we should perhaps step back and take an objective view of the situation as it really exists. An old proverb states: "We see things as they are – not as what we are."



Don't Be Sad, Ty

By Christopher Shelton

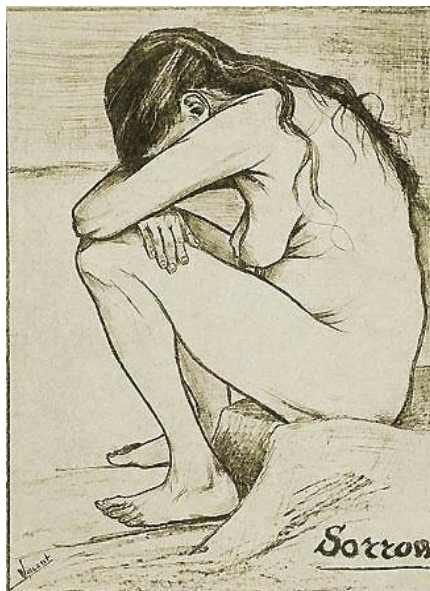
Could 'aloofness' just be shyness

Shyness about what??

*Strength is sexy –
When mixed with a kind heart....*

*Don't be conflicted
Just be yourself*

*Kindness is sexy –
When mixed with a strong heart....*



CHEEERS Soundboard Interview: Al Fenn

by Christopher James Shelton

(Bill Thompson - of 'Wallace and Ladmo' fame - told me: "Al Fenn is the man. If you want to know anything about the Arizona boxing scene - he is the man to whom you should speak." There was a time when the World War II vet, Al Fenn, was a major celebrity of this city. Fenn was promoter/manager of most of the amateur Golden Gloves winners of the latter 1950's and early 60's. As a pro manager, Fenn worked with Zora Folley - from Chandler - and they remain to this day as the most successful heavyweight team from our region. This 12/03/08 interview finds me with a spirited Fenn - despite a man on his way to chemotherapy - diagnosed with colon cancer 11 months earlier).

ME: I have learned much about Zora Folley over the last several weeks. You are a real legend and celebrity of Phoenix - yet most Phoenicians are from somewhere else - and are not interested in Phoenix history. They do not seem to know or care that you and Folley nearly teamed up for the heavyweight Championship.

FENN: Well, I tried to train Folley right. Bring him along steady against the right opponents.



ME: These early bouts were in Los Angeles and Clifton, Arizona?

FENN: Yeagh - we did well. I only wish that I had not matched him against (*Johnny*) Summerlin. (*Folley's first loss - 1955 - Los Angeles*). That turned out to be a mistake. Folley was not quite ready for him.

ME: That was one setback - but only a setback as Folley steadily climbed the rankings.

Fenn: Yes - that's true. I put Folley against this muscled guy - a 'Madonis' - what is the word I am looking for?

ME: Adonis.

FENN: That's it - 'Adonis'. This fellow Zanzibar was an Adonis - and I met him in Safford and drove him all the way up to Clifton (*September, 1954*). The whole way there - Zanzibar had seen nothing like it before. Nothing but desert. Well, Folley knocked out this Adonis, Zanzibar (*7th round*), and that really impressed some folks. But it was the fight against (*Nino*) Valdes (*September, 1956*) that was the big one. This is what placed Folley on the (*national*) map.

ME: The earliest Phoenix bout that I know of was against K.O. Brown on November 17, 1953. Could you tell me anything about the fight?

FENN: That was at Phoenix Madison Square Garden. All of the major bouts were held there. Of course that wasn't his real name ('K.O. Brown') but we wanted something that sounded right. (*TKO win for Folley - as Brown was unable to come out for the 9th round*). It was a real loss for the city when they tore down the Garden. The venue was important from a historical perspective. Many memories were lost in its destruction.

ME: Folley was the legitimate #1 contender for the heavyweight Championship throughout 1958. But Cus D'Amato (*manager of Champion Floyd Patterson*) clearly was avoiding Folley. That must have been frustrating?

FENN: I went so far as to contact our local congressman, Stu Udall. Udall was up in arms about what was happening - like most folks - and he went so far as to promise to introduce a bill in Congress to force Patterson to fight Folley. But as far as I know - Udall had never actually done such a thing.



Al Fenn (1919-2009) WW II

ME: (*I delicately tread with Fenn's biggest mistake - matching Folley in September, 1958, against British heavyweight Champion, Henry Cooper, in England*). Could you tell me about the Henry Cooper fight in England? Folley was clearly the better pugilist - scoring a 2nd round knockout the second time they met (*December, 1961*). But that first bout gave Cus D'Amato an excuse to allow Patterson to avoid Folley. What happened in England with Cooper and that first decision loss?

FENN: (*Disgusted*) Those English judges robbed Folley down there. Well, you know, you cannot beat one of their fighters by decision in their own backyard.

ME: It appears that Sonny Liston was willing to fight Folley after he won the Championship (*September, 1962*). But Liston allowed Patterson a rematch - another 1st round knockout - and then fought Ali (*'Cassius Clay' at the time*) - when he lost the title. Liston's loss was probably Folley's last chance at a title shot in his prime.

FENN: Sonny Liston was the greatest heavyweight of all time. The best that I ever saw. (*Liston scored a 3rd round knockout over Folley - July, 1960 - which helped launch Liston to a title bout*). Liston made a mistake fighting Ali. Ali was too fast and clever and Liston did not know what to do with him.

ME: But that Liston loss (*February, 1964*) cost yourself and Folley a title bout.

FENN: Well, Folley yes, but not me. I signed Folley to a 10 year contract in 1953. So that ended in '63. One of the final things that I did was to buy Folley a house. It had been a financial struggle for years - and I had been against his getting married and settling down.

ME: You did not like Folley's wife - or you thought she would tame him too much?

FENN: No - Folley was never an angry person or had bad habits. I liked his wife. No - I was already paying expenses for one person - and a family meant paying for more. (*Laughs*). But I wanted to make sure Folley had something when our contract expired - and that is how he wound up with a house. After the changeover to (*manager*) Bill Swift - I still retained a 3 1/2% interest.

ME: Folley eventually landed his title opportunity (*March, 1967*) - past his prime (*age 35*) - against an undefeated Muhammad Ali at his peak. What could you tell me about that bout?

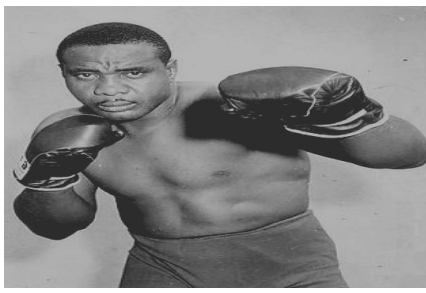
FENN: Folley was not the best boxer. He could hit - but could not take a punch well. Folley had a good, consistent jab with a sneaky hard right. Swift trained him different than Johnny Hart (*trainer*) and myself. We wanted him to develop better footwork - develop a shuffle.

ME: Like a Jersey Joe Walcott or Ali himself?

FENN: That's right! It turns out that Folley needed this desperately against a guy like Ali. Ali was not the kind of guy that you just take out. If you wanted to beat Ali - you had to take him out in later rounds. To take Ali to later rounds - you needed footwork so that you were not an easy target for him. Folley would also need to train his legs extra hard - along with the footwork - because Ali will be patient and let an opponent wear down. You still need to be moving - and have some kind of defense into the 10th round - if you had any hope of beating Ali.

ME: It is maddening to be a boxing historian and try to explain Ali to others. A major misperception of Ali - in his time and especially today - is that he was vulnerable against sluggers or bigger guys who hit hard. The pugilist who clearly gave Ali (*as 'Clay'*) the most problems during the 1960's was Doug Jones - a fast defensive specialist with patience.

FENN: That's exactly what I am talking about! Folley was not a defensive fighter by nature - but he would have to alter his style or have no chance against Ali. (*After the 7th round knockout - Ali spotted Folley's son crying. In a lovely gesture - Ali hugged the boy and told him neither he or anyone would have defeated his Dad had the bout occurred years earlier in Folley's prime*).



Zora Folley and Sonny Liston (photos courtesy of Tracy Callis—CyberBoxingZone)

Meet CHEEERS Staff

CHEEERS Bus Mobility Trainer: Mark Deleo

By Christopher Shelton

(Q) I cannot imagine a more horrible job than standing outside in a 110 degree heat while chit chatting with a new client. Bus Mobility supervisor, Chastity Robinson, insists that you love your job. This reinforces my notion that Mark Deleo is a nice guy – but completely crazy. Why do you like your job??

I choose Bus Mobility as a career because I enjoy working with the clients one on one to help them realize their potential, not only in terms of successfully navigating the Valley Metro bus system and Metro light rail, but also other personal goals such as developing a supportive social network, volunteering, going back to school or work or engaging them in recreational activities that they once enjoyed but their illness had prevented them from participation. When I began the job, I had never taken a bus before. Because of the fears I had in the beginning of my career, I can empathize with the new clients just starting out and watch their fears and triggers wane.

(Q) CHEEERS prides itself on cultural competency. If a client does not speak English --- what other languages are you fluent??

I am fluent in Spanish. I am knowledgeable in Italian, German, French and Mandarin Chinese. I used to be more fluent in these, but since I moved to Phoenix, I have no one to practice with and am therefore a little rusty. The bipolar meds also have taken away some of my ability. I refuse to lose my Spanish, though!!

(Q) I hate that you are Employee Of The Year. It was soooo much funner when you were a client and shot pool all day with the guys. Don't you miss us??

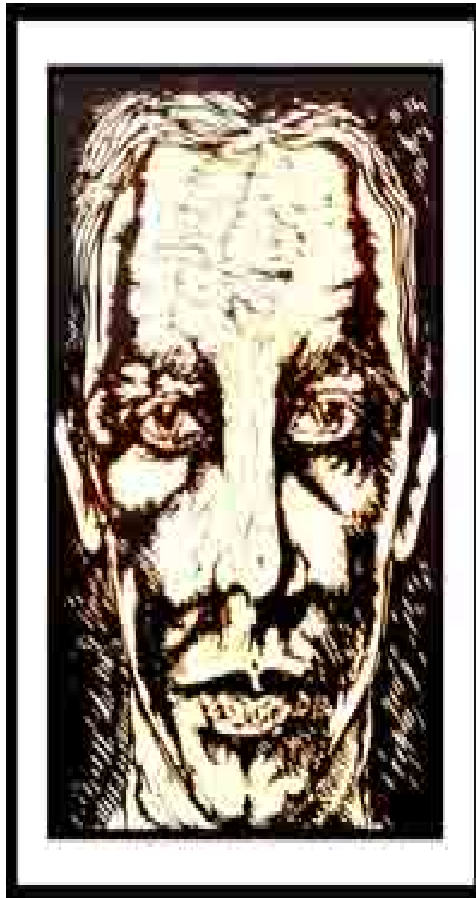
I do miss playing pool with the clients. It was always for fun and I really enjoyed making those awesome shots as well as watching Kevin (Parkes), David (Ybarra) and Eugene (Laycock) and you do the same. As a client, it meant I could bond with the other players. It was also my favorite leisure activity as I anxiously waited to hear from Social Security. I like it when you pull me out of my office and say "Let's play pool Mark!"

A Paradise For Magnificent Fools

By Chastity Robinson

*Little boy blue
Consciously withdrew
To feed a live and stave the truth
Til in massive strength it grew
And in time consumed
No longer to be subdued
The madness was set loose*

*Landing in a world he regrettably knew
A paradise for magnificent fools
Then a strong wind blew
And in blew the noose
A fate of which he'd never elude
There he stood utterly confused
So it goes for Little Boy blue*



CHEEERS Soundboard Editor (thx)

Mitch Klein (C.E.O.)
Monti Halstengard (HR Director)
Mike Fett (President/Webmaster)

CHEEERS Fine Arts Critic (aka/ 'Animus boss')

Linda Ozack REVIEW: I recently attended the "Through Each Others Eyes" photographic exhibition at the Marriott. The display compares the cultures of Scotland and Arizona – through the eyes of two Scottish photographers – and two Arizonans – how they view us and how we view them.

The Arizonans see Scotland as an old country with modernized people. The Arizona photographer that I liked most was Jim Marshall: "Cobblestones, Edinburgh" "Pub Life" "Culloden Battlefield 16 April 1746". As much as I enjoyed those pieces and others – I doubt someone from Scotland would recognize their homeland, because I did not see a Phoenix that I know from the photographs displayed.

The Scottish photographers seem to think we are Cowboys in Phoenix. I don't know anyone who is a Cowboy or dresses like one. I saw only one photograph of a Navajo native. I did not see a Phoenix that included Latinos or Blacks. There were no animals in the photographs. No wildlife like javelinas or snakes or people having cats and dogs. I don't like to talk about my Phoenix because it is not always a nice Phoenix. There are more dishonest people in the Phoenix that I know than you see in the photographs. Or at least people on the streets are not as nice. Nigel Webster's "Graffiti, Bisbee" photographs were closest to a Phoenix that I recognize.

I thought that both Scottish photographers did an amazing job with Arizona landscape. Caroline Parkinson's "Lower Antelope Valley, Near Page" was real, but yet it didn't look real. It was like I was seeing something for the first time.

This is the first photographic art exhibition that I have attended and now I hope to attend more. It was a nice Sunday and I met some polite and helpful people who worked at the Marriott.

Through Each Others Eyes

By Christopher Shelton

The T.E.O.E. mission statement: "To help people around the world understand and appreciate cultures different than their own." The organizer of the exhibition, retired North Phoenix Central High School teacher, Errol Zimmerman, retains his lifelong commitment to free expression. The photographic 'misconceptions' are not exhibition mistakes, but a reminder that the only way we learn from one another's culture is that vital first step of international cooperation and communication.

The T.E.O.E. also performs community service that may be of interest to CHEEERS clients. Free family portraits are available at the Union Shelter in Central Phoenix. More information can be found at www.teao.org.

CHEEERS Volunteerism

By Kjerstin Halstengard

My experiences at CHEEERS have always been positive. Last summer I volunteered every day for two weeks in the administrative office, while we prepared for an audit. Yikes!

You might think that preparing for something as daunting as an audit would be scary, but the people at CHEEERS made it pleasant. There was a ton of work that had to be done to prepare, yet everyone kept a level head so the stress was low. I actually had a lot of fun. Not only do I love working with my Mom, but I also had the opportunity to work with some really cool people that kept the office running smoothly while energy levels remained high. Much work was complete so we were ready for that intimidating audit. I felt very much as if my help was appreciated and truly enjoyed my volunteerism for CHEEERS. Hopefully this summer I will be able to volunteer at the Center. From my experience with the clients, everyone is very friendly. I would love to spend some time over there just hanging out with these cool people!

In the next issue of *CHEEERS Soundboard*, maybe I will be invited to write about my experience interacting with the clients, since I am now old enough to volunteer at the Center.

BIG UNIT SAYS GOODBYE

by Christopher Shelton

***On the last day of the 2008 season
- in what turned out to be his final game as a
Diamondback
- 45 year old Johnson fit back on his cap and
was ready to pitch the 10th inning
- having given up only 2 hits over 9***

***Sometimes it is pride in the small moments that
explains greatness in the bigger ones***

Famous Persons With Mental Illness

By Christopher Shelton

Name: Francesco Parmigianino

Diagnosis: Schizophrenia (??)

Vasari's portrayals of the Italian Renaissance artists left Parmigianino – for better or worse – as the 'crazy' one of the illustrious crop: "*Having his thoughts filled with alchemy... Parmigianino changed from the delicate, amiable, and elegant person that he was, to a bearded, long-haired, neglected, and almost savage or wild one... Parmigianino was interred naked, as he had wished, and with a cross of Cypress placed upright on his breast in the grave.*"

At CHEEERS or within the mental health community – it is encouraged: "A person should be defined by more than their diagnosis." It appears that Parmigianino was a shy, delicate gay man – polite and well mannered -- whose artistic influences included Correggio, Pordenone and Raphael. But it is the mental collapse – recorded by Vasari in cryptic terms – that unfortunately will forever define the personality of this great artist.

CHEEERS client: Josephine Ramirez

by Christopher Shelton

Josephine is one of our more remarkable recovery stories. Her ancestry is Old Mexico and her family is from the Nebraska region. She has lived in Arizona for three years and lives daily with the trauma recovery due to the unfortunate drowning of her beloved brother at the tender age of 16.

If Josephine is remarkable - her parents are 'stars'. They provide a consistent support system of love and trust. Her mom enjoys cooking and Josephine often assists with her job of cleaning houses. Her father is approximately 86 years old and served our country with honor during World War II. The Army veteran suffered combat wounds that remain to this day.

Both parents - and Josephine herself - are bilingual (English, Spanish) and find strength in Catholicism and bible study....

(Q): For people who never met your brother, Peter. How should he be remembered?

(A): That he and I were very close. We liked to go the movies together. He also gave me earrings and a locket for my birthday. He liked karate. He was very good at baseball and basketball. Many girls liked him. He had so many girls that liked him.

(Q): Was there any special girl to his heart?

(A): Maria. He gave her a locket with his photo. She loved him and we did not tell him he drowned. We only told her that he went away. She was so young and we did not want her to be sad.

(Q): Do you mind me mentioning Peter's death in the newsletter?

(A): No. I don't mind. It has been awhile now. I have had much help so that I understand and feel better. Sometimes I pray in church: "Oh God - take me to my brother one day."

(Me): But not too soon?

(A): (laughs) But not too soon.....



The Obama Way

By *Thomas Avalon*

Bush stole the 2000 Presidency
Then assumed an unlawful residency
All those lies with terrible deceit
It suited Bush well as Commander in Cheat
The President sleeps with an occasional snore
In the bed that belongs to Al/Tipper Gore
Today there is hope for a better day
As a new era brings us the Obama way

Famous Persons With Mental Illness

by *Christopher Shelton*

Name: **Hillary Scott**

Diagnosis: **(SAD) Social Anxiety Disorder**

The 2007 adult female performer of the year proves a slightly elusive psychological profile challenge because of the nature of her business and personality. 6-7 profile interviews provide highly entertaining quotes, but slightly contradictory information.

For literary purpose and device, I needed her "real name" - but it's possible that **'Hillary Scott'** (I thought 100% of adult film performers use an alias) is her birth name. The gist of the story that unfolds from this middle class Chicagoan is that there are **"two Hillary Scotts"**. There is **'Hillary Scott'** who aggressively devours men on camera - a scary manic heterosexual - with a wisecracking, gregarious, fearless take-no-prisoners approach as definition of herself and life. There is also **'Hillary Scott'** off camera - a shy, meek, quiet lesbian - with Clark Kent glasses and unconfident demeanor - who is often the least noticeable and unremarkable person in any room in which she finds herself.

Amidst the intentionally comical outrageous comments are several with mainstream relevance: "Who has a lesser morality: a celebrity mainstream actress who snorts/smokes speed drugs or an adult celebrity actress who hates cocaine/crystal meth?" My point is not to answer the question - only that Ms. Scott provides provocative fodder for thought.

Her Social Anxiety Disorder - of which she is open about - appears to have left the actress/person confused as to her true identity. Is **'Hillary Scott'** reaching out to people or rejecting them? Is **'Hillary Scott'** the regular person who always shows to set on time and never complains or is she the non-conformist ultra rebel in which she also takes immense pride and views herself??

If the actress has made a clear mistake in life it is in her lack of recovery. It is her desire to fight/battle a mental illness rather than resolve acceptance of her condition. She possesses a fierce independent insistence that people know the name **'Hillary Scott'** - but seems to have little interest in understanding herself as a person.

Amidst the contradictory and sassy interview comments reveals a highly intelligent, funny, threatening, sweet, responsible, irresponsible, open minded, highly judgmental individual. The story that emerges of this 25 year old is that some years ago a timid, pretty and bored Chicago bank clerk decided to define a performance arts theatrical character for others - but would ultimately hide the real **'Hillary Scott'** from herself.

It is all a bit sad. Amidst the distancing techniques - which are present in her extroverted persona as well - is someone who might be a nice person if she wasn't so determined to be such a standoffish brat. If Ms. Scott could just relax and discover herself and love who she is - whether she continues with adult films or not - perhaps others would also find her loveable.....



Playing By Ear

By *Jon 'Curley' Kreiger*

I would like to tell you about a hobby that I have had off and on since the mid 80's. It is listening to Old Time Radio shows from radio's "golden age". In the days before television, the 1920's to 50's, families would gather around the old Philco and listen to comedies, drama, mysteries, variety, news and anything else.

I first discovered OTR around 1985. My parents had bought two radio shows consisting of 'Abbot and Costello', 'Fibber McGee and Molly', 'Inner Sanctum Mysteries' (my favorite) and others.

Abbot and Costello were language driven with rapid fire verbal delivery. Their "Who's On First" routine is a comedy classic that is only an internet click away for anyone interested. I would describe Inner Sanctum Mysteries as comedy horror. Every mystery has the word 'murder' in the title. I like it because of the corny jokes: "Don't lose your head," with its double meaning. I also like the sounds of the creaking door. It is fun to listen to the show in the middle of the night because it is scary, but funny. Fibber McGee and Molly is a hilarious program. The show has big band music. It is about this middle aged couple living in a small town. They have neighbors drop over and then do homespun shtick. He is called 'Fibber' because of all the tall tales that he weaves about his past. The funniest moments are when he opens the closet - which is always jam packed - and you get to hear as stuff falls to the ground.

These days all the OTR shows that have survived our available online on down-loadable audio files. I have 135 shows downloaded on my trusty Blackberry phone. If ever there is the opportunity to listen to any of these old shows, don't pass it up - you will be in for a real treat.

Death Of A CHEEERS CLIENT

Anthony Ward Memory

By Margarita Moreno

Anthony would talk to me about his problems – what was happening in his life and home. He did not like to talk about his problems in group. When people would bring up the past about his childhood – he would become upset. I would tell him: “It’s good to talk about it. It will help and not hurt.” But Anthony would always reply: “I’ll think about it.” He would say that in his gruff voice every time.

Anthony’s main interest at CHEEERS was fishing and bowling. He also liked to sketch and draw. He was good, but I could never convince him to join us in crafts group. Anthony drew fine likenesses of cats and horses – and even once, a picture of a whale.

Who Was Anthony Ward ??

By Debra L. Meece

He was one of us but we never knew him! He lived below me and yet, I said hello maybe three times. He cleaned up his messes at Coconut Grove. I can only sum up Anthony Ward as a mystery. And now, we will never know for sure because he is gone.

Sorry, Anthony Ward, I never knew you at all!! And I am sorry as Hell that the society I live in has let you slip away -- for you were here one minute -- then gone forever! And the dirty truth is it can happen to us all. We are Ghosts and Shadows on the wind -- here today -- gone tomorrow.

Sorry Tony!

Anthony Ward Memory

By Takeo Mildren

I try to get along with people, but it was hard with Anthony. Sometimes, he was nice, but he also had a bad temper. Anthony would ask if I wanted to eat at Hometown Buffet, but I did not want to. I guess that he wanted to be friends, but I didn’t like the way he fought with Rocky. I cannot associate with someone who treats my friend badly.

Anthony Ward Memory

By Scott Berliew

Anthony was a good soul who had a kind heart. He was lovable in person – sort of quiet and curious. He enjoyed barbeques at home that he shared with friends.

Anthony enjoyed attending groups for what he gained from them. He also enjoyed the Bingo Bucks that accompanied so that he could go bowling and fishing.

Anthony was a good friend and I will miss him.

The Invisible Person

By Casey Halstengard

(Editor’s note: The following is an excerpt from our 2nd newsletter issue – the disguised client is Anthony Ward): The next person that I spoke to was T----. He had the bluest eyes. They were the color of the sky and distracted me from all the dirt he had on his face. “I studied physics and philosophy in college,” said T---. As T--- told me his story I could not help but feel sorry for him. He was almost done with college and seemed to have his life together. With his major he could have had any job that he wanted. Then all of a sudden his life crumbled before him.



Anthony Ward Memory

By Christopher Shelton

I am not sure this is the best memory of someone deceased - but I remember making Anthony and others laugh with the following story: John Schwarcz III ('Animus') was facilitating Philosophy Focus - I had tired quickly - and hoped for a reason to leave. John was asking Anthony some question about his personal life. **Anthony misinterpreted and became irate:** "Are you asking me when I last had sex?" **John:** "No." **Anthony:** "It's none of your business when the last time I had sex." **Me:** "John - really.." **John:** "I didn't mean that - I - I - I --" **Anthony:** "My personal life is my own. It's nobody's damned business when I last had sex." **Me:** "Anthony has a point, John. He is not the only one offended." **John:** "I didn't mean that." **Me:** "But you asked the question - and we all heard it. You are right Anthony and John is wrong." **John:** "No, it's just - just ---" **Anthony:** "I'm not telling you or anybody, John, about my sex life. It's none of your damned business." **Me (standing):** "This is more than I can bear. Asking Anthony the last time he had sex is offensive. What is this - X rated Philosophy Focus?? Let me tell you something, John. Maybe it's not my place to talk this way to staff - but someone has to take a stand. **I do not know what sort of smut language you use in the privacy of your home,**" --- John is smiling and the rest of the group is hypnotized: "**But when you are at CHEEERS --- CLEAN IT UP MISTER!!....** If I may apologize to the other clients - but I am going home to take a shower and wash out my ears." The clients - including Anthony and John - laugh aloud as I indignantly exit the group....

Anthony Ward Memory

By Chastity Robinson

My words for Anthony Ward can be neither pleasant nor unkind. Anthony was a man who was Seriously Mentally Ill, but more than that, he was somebody's son, somebody's brother and somebody's friend. I know that he will not be returning to CHEEERS either to raise Hell or to sit quietly in deep contemplation. He is no longer in pain. Anthony will never again have to fight or grapple within himself. I know that he is free.

Anthony Ward Memory

By Rhonda Padilla

Anthony was a good guy who had some problems, but I guess we all have problems. We were cordial whenever we saw one another. Anthony would say: "You look nice today." I would reply: "Anthony, you look handsome, too."

I could see that Anthony had problems, but felt he had few places to turn. My own opinion is that the mental health system let him down. I felt that those of us with a mental health diagnosis are ignored and put down by the mental health system itself.

Anthony died in a world that did not care. But I cared – and I am sad that he will no longer be with us.

My Friend, Anthony Ward

By Steven Munson

We used to barbecue together and have a few beers. We would eat some good food, watch television and smoke cigarettes. Anthony liked music so he used to play both Rock 'N Roll and Country & Western a lot. I know that Anthony was frustrated because he wanted to do more with his life. He always talked about going back to work.

It sucks because I am the one who found him. I didn't believe that he was dead. So I called the authorities – and sure enough – he was dead.



Anthony Ward Memory

By Everett McElhiny

Anthony used to hang out with me a lot and play video games. We would go to the gym and play basketball. He was good. He used to beat me sometimes and I beat him a couple of times.

Anthony used to invite me to his house to watch cable when he had it. He liked action movies – anything with guns. He liked Van Damme and Jackie Chan. He also enjoyed professional wrestling. His favorite wrestler was John Cena.

I went to Anthony's funeral and said some prayers. His Mom and Dad were there, along with a brother and sister, and a couple friends.

Anthony Ward's Hippie Eulogy (4/23/09)

Some of those in attendance: Roderigo, Lorena, Will, John Schwarcz III, Linda, Margarito, Warren, Robert, Valerie, Mark Deleo, Sabrina, Monti, Chastity, Barbara, Rhonda, Scott, Takeo, Mars...

I begin the facilitation with a statement of purpose: "*This is for Anthony Ward the individual -- but also for anyone who has a diagnosed mental illness -- or is homeless -- or is deemed unworthy of a memorial.*" I mentioned what I knew of Anthony from group. That there were 2 Anthony's -- the person who never spoke -- and the Anthony that was occasionally expansive over childhood abuse challenges.

Scott Berliaw wanted to talk -- so I allowed him his say. (Much of this in an accompanying piece). **He was clearly the most emotional of us all.** After he had his say -- I asked John Schwarcz if he had anything to add. It was sort of interesting because Anthony and John would battle -- and John hated Anthony -- and John STILL HATES Anthony -- but he measured his words without becoming overly sentimental. **John (Schwarcz):** "*Anthony was outspoken at times and he always enjoyed a good debate.*" I knew that Will had facilitated groups that Anthony attended -- few clients wanted to openly speak -- so I asked for a comment. **Will (Calandra):** "*I know that Anthony's Mom and Dad always pushed him to strive to his capabilities -- so that people would remember him as more than a diagnosis. The last time I saw him Anthony seemed depressed that he was too old to begin again -- and too old to accomplish any dreams.*" **ME:** "*Most of us in this room are past the age of 30 -- and we hear those people calling themselves old. 30 is young - 40 is young - 50 is young - 60 is young -- my Grandma had her best years in her 70's -- so age is a matter of individual perception.*" Feeling a need for more voice before turning ceremonial duties to Michael Pierce -- I asked Chastity if she wanted to say something. **Chastity (Robinson):** "*It's important to know that all of us are complex and multi layered.. We saw Anthony from a limited standpoint. We knew something of him -- but there was undoubtedly more to learn. I am glad that we do this because it is a reminder that all of us our human beings who deserve to be recognized and remembered.*" **Scott sort of growled: "Doesn't staff have something to say about him??"** The best skill that I provided as facilitator was allowing Scott to vent without taking any sort of control. I mentioned that several staff had spoken already - but this is client driven and that all staff in attendance is voluntary. Desiring one more voice -- and knowing that Monti often has a religious thought at her disposal -- I asked her to share. **Monti (Halstengard):** "*If I passed away, I would like to know something like this would exist. It is nice to have a forum where people can gather to show that they care.*" I was asked how Anthony died -- which I declined to answer as instead I quoted our spiritual mentor, Jerry Garcia: "*A death is authentic no matter the circumstance,*" while we all agreed that the actual cause was currently unimportant. **At that, I passed the facilitator baton to Michael Pierce -- who sort of wobbled and was unfocused in the beginning --- but gathered steam as he glanced at the handout that I provided.** Michael quoted from both Wordsworth and Donne. The lights were dimmed -- candle ceremoniously lit. We held hands as Michael quoted Paul Simon's "*Bridge Over Troubled Water.*" Michael pulled it together as we held hands -- with a moment of reflection for all of us with a diagnosed mental illness: "***I believe that Anthony Ward is with us now.***" So we shared a moment of silence -- as Michael brilliantly concluded with an edited quote from the Beatles "*Tomorrow Never Knows*". Michael's studied pauses and phrasing perfectly captured the solemn and emotional mood.

ME: So you never managed another heavyweight contender after Folley?

FENN: I promoted Sonny Liston briefly towards the end of his career (*late 1968*). He was still a good fighter at that time. One was in a Juarez (*Mexico*) bull ring. Liston won both of those bouts. (*A dominant and exciting 3rd round knockout in Phoenix over experienced Sonny Moore was followed by a 2nd round knockout over Willis Earls in Juarez.*)

ME: The media reputation of Liston was of a scowling thug - sort of a criminal.

FENN: Sonny Liston was a very nice man. Quiet and soft spoken.

ME: So the media reputation that Liston was some sort of animal was unfair?

FENN: Well - those other fighters were scared of him. They were beat before they entered the ring against him. Liston encouraged that.

ME: What was Sonny Liston's boxing peak?

FENN: It was before he was Champion when he fought Cleveland Williams. Both were big guys and it was one of the greatest heavyweight bouts ever. (*Two TKO wins for Liston against Williams - both within 3 rounds - in 1959 and '60.*)

ME: What did Sonny Liston like to talk about - boxing or his family?

FENN: It was tough to get Liston to say anything. He was polite - with a 'please' or 'thank you' - but he did not reveal any more of himself than was necessary. Dick Sadler (manager) was the talker of the two.

ME: So your association with Liston did not last long?

FENN: Sometimes Liston fought too heavy and did not train like he should. They (*Las Vegas*) got ahold of Liston. He never did the kinds of things that brought him down when I knew him. He was clean. (*Liston died of a heroin overdose - age 38 - in December, 1970.*)

ME: Liston and Folley lived parallel lives - born within 3 weeks of one another - fought their first pro fight within 3 weeks of one another - fought their last pro bout within 3 months of one another - and then died within 18 months of each other.... What could you tell me about Zora Folley's death?

FENN: It appears that it was accidental. I believe it was an accident. I guess Folley was stepping out on his wife. The guy he was with was a professional celebrity hanger on. They were meeting with these two women. I believe that the men began with horseplay - trying to impress the women. Folley pushed the man in the pool. As he did this - he slipped off the ledge and his head hit against the hard surface.

ME: There is much gossip about murder and conspiracy. I believe - because Folley was a good man with a clean reputation - that the police felt it unnecessary to tarnish his local image as a family man. Because the police revealed so few details - except it was an accident - that this fueled the conspiracy rumors.

FENN: Oh - I hear the talk that Folley was murdered. They say it was the husband or boyfriend of one of the women that found them - became jealous - and whacked him. I don't believe it though. I was at the funeral - and his family seemed convinced that the police version - which was told to them privately - was the truth and that it was an accident.

ME: You used the term 'whacked' and this makes me think of the mob - and we are talking about boxing. Has the mob ever threatened you to lose a bout or anything like that?

FENN: The mob threatened both myself and my partner, Dave McCoy. The Nevada mob approached me one day and said that (*pugilist*) Irving Star belongs to them now.

ME: Is that the only time the mob stole someone from you?

FENN: No - another fighter they wanted was Ray Coleman. (*A fast hand speed featherweight who fought out of Phoenix in the early to mid 60's*). The mob called and warned me that they would kill Coleman's daughter. I laughed at them: "Ray Coleman does not even have a daughter!"

ME: Could you tell me the name of anyone that was part of the mob?

FENN: An Italian by the name of Ralph Gambino. He worked the Nevada mob scene.

ME: Did you believe that the mob was serious about their threats?

FENN: Well - Dave McCoy was later murdered in Los Angeles . He was suffocated with a pillow and they never solved his murder. I guess that could have been me.

ME: That must have frightened you?

FENN: No. I was sad about what happened to Dave, but not as much as you might think. It is tough to break into the boxing business - and maybe not everything we did was legal. But everything involving the two of us died with him. (*Laughs*). As far as Irving Star - I warned him that he would regret betraying me - and the mobsters eventually burned him.

ME: Boxing is a pretty sleazy world - so it must be difficult to remain clean and honest?

FENN: I did the best that I could. I have known hundreds of boxers. So many of them were in gangs and their life was headed nowhere. I helped them develop a discipline to their lives - and this in turn led to self confidence. Many of these boxers were Hispanic - and they did not go on to win the title - but they became successful with their lives. So many of them approached me after they had quit boxing and thanked me for helping to turn around their lives.

ME: This must give you tremendous satisfaction?

FENN: Yeagh - boxing is a business - but it turns out to be the human aspects that brought out my best and most lasting memories.

(Editor's note: I am listed as an assistant researcher with Cyber Boxing Zone for the following pugilists: Tom Hyer, Charles 'Professor' Hadley, George 'Old Chocolate' Godfrey, Jake Kilrain and John L. Sullivan. It is with regret that I conclude with Mr. Fenn's having lost his battle with cancer on February 22, 2009.)

Faces Of Mental Illness

Special 'Facebook' (thx): Ceren Sultan Altay, Ace Frehley & Stephanie Venerande

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Francesco Parmigianino



Jon 'Curley' Kreiger



Josephine Ramirez



Michael Pierce



Hillary Scott



Mark Deleo