



**Volume 21**

**Number 007**

## **Alcoholics Anonymous – III**

**Lead: Alcoholics Anonymous has helped millions of people kick their addiction to liquor, but like all human institutions, the group is not without its critics.**

**Intro: *A Moment in Time* with Dan Roberts**

**Content: Since its founding in 1935, AA has shown remarkable resistance to institutional sclerosis. The emphasis**

**on anonymity and local control have kept conflict at a minimum. That said the organization is not without its flaws and it has critics. They point out that AA is beneficial to many individuals, but not all.**

**A large meta study done by the University of New Mexico demonstrated that 70% of AA participants do not make it past the first year and that many who do lapse back into drinking. Nevertheless, 30% are significantly helped and the 12-step process has proved more successful in inspiring total and permanent abstinence than alternative therapies. Some groups are dominated by older leaders impatient with novices. Some older members introduce the vulnerable to the “13<sup>th</sup> step,” AA jargon for sexual exploitation.**

**Whatever the criticism, AA was among the first to see alcoholism as a disease, a remediable condition that can lead to rehabilitation. It has brought hope and life-changing help to millions caught in addiction and provided a pathway from dependence on alcohol into sobriety, confidence, and productivity.**

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### Resources

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