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## Setting the Record Straight

Some months ago, Angel S. of Los Angeles, California opened a magazine for substance abuse counselors and was unhappy with what she saw. She sat down and wrote a letter, signed "Anonymous," which the editors printed in its entirety. Excerpts follow:

"As a recovering alcoholic with 11 years of sobriety, I must express a deep disappointment in three of the articles you ran on cocaine addiction. Each article suggested sending addicts to A.A. meetings rather than encouraging them to embrace recovery in Narcotics Anonymous and/or Cocaine Anonymous, where they would have other addicts to identify with and a common recovery solution.

"The only requirement for A.A. membership is a desire to stop drinking. As the A.A. pamphlet, 'Problems Other Than Alcohol,' states: 'Sobriety—freedom from alcohol—through the teaching and practice of the Twelve Steps, is the sole purpose of an A.A. group.'

"When I was three years sober, I tried to carry the A.A. message to a free-base addict. He was not an alcoholic, but I thought A.A. had the answers for him. I never gave him the phone number for N.A. or C.A. When he died of an overdose, my signature was on the death certificate. I carried the wrong message to another human being and I carry the guilt today.

"Now when I share my experience, strength and hope with someone, I try to make certain that person is an alcoholic who wants to recover from alcoholism. I encourage people with problems other than alcohol to seek out twelve-step programs that specifically address their afflictions."

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*Please send copy to intergroup rep—*