

*If I come into A.A., won't I miss a lot of friends and a lot of fun?*

The best answer to this is the experience of the hundreds of thousands of men and women who have already come into A.A. In general, their attitude is that they did not enjoy real friendships or real fun until they joined A.A. Their point of view on both has changed. Many alcoholics discover that their best friends are delighted to see them face up to the fact that they cannot handle alcohol. No one wants to see a friend continue to hurt. Naturally, it is important to distinguish between friendships and casual barroom acquaintanceships. The alcoholic is likely to have many acquaintances whose conviviality may be missed for a while. But their place will be taken by the hundreds of A.A.s the newcomer will meet — men and women who offer understanding acceptance, and help in sustaining sobriety at all times. Few members of A.A. would trade the fun that comes with sobriety for what seemed to be fun while they were drinking.