

County Life

ENTERTAINMENT

NASHVILLE, TENN.

CMT edits out awards show fall

Shania Twain's stumble during the CMT Music Awards show is being edited out of replays to save her from more embarrassment.



Twain

Twain slipped and fell on her way to the stage Wednesday night during a live telecast. The channel left the spill out of a replay following the show and during another replay Thursday.

John Hamlin, the show's executive producer, says the last thing the channel wants to do is embarrass anyone, particularly someone as gracious as Twain.

While CMT edited out the fall, footage of it aired on cable news channels and was available on the Internet.

Twain said via her Twitter account that she was not hurt, except for a sore thumb.

NEW YORK

Duchess doubtful show could air

The Duchess of York Sarah Ferguson says it's doubtful her new television series "Finding Sarah" could ever air in Britain.



Ferguson

"I think that Fergie baiting sells a lot of papers in Britain, and Fergie does tend to fall into the traps so could it air on Britain? Probably not without dramatic ramifications and negativity," Ferguson says.

"Finding Sarah" is a six-part series airing on Oprah Winfrey's Network, OWN, where Ferguson goes on a soulful journey to rebuild her self-esteem. Along the way, she is helped by experts (and friends of Winfrey) including Dr. Phil McGraw and financial adviser Suze Orman.

Ferguson says the most difficult lesson she had to learn was about regret and to accept that she can't change the past.

One regret she is likely referring to is the scandal from May of last year where she was filmed by an undercover journalist, posing as an Indian businessman negotiating a payment to the duchess for access to Prince Andrew.

NEW YORK

Joan Jett sues in NY over tribute

Joan Jett loves rock and roll, but not on a tribute album she says an ex-employee put together without her permission.



Jett

The "I Love Rock N' Roll" singer-guitarist and 1970s bandmate Cherie Currie sued Thursday to try to stop the June 28 release of "Take It or Leave It: A Tribute to the Queens of Noise," an intended homage to the Runaways, the punk band that launched their careers and helped light a path for other brash, hard-edged female rock groups.

The two-disc album features Runaways songs covered by artists ranging from the all-woman Japanese pop-punk band Shonen Knife to David Johansen, of the 1970s glam-rock pacesetters the New York Dolls.

'BACK TO BASICS'

Alcoholics Anonymous archivist, author conducts sessions here

By Roland Stoy
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OID TOWNSHIP — From Chicago, Detroit, Fort Wayne and Kalamazoo they came last Saturday to Lockwood Community Church, where the Monroe Street Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) group of Coldwater hosted a "Back to Basics" program on the 12 Steps.

The guest was Wally P., who made a decision to carry the message to others 22 years ago in the home of the late Dr. Robert Smith, who along with Bill Wilson was a co-founder of AA in 1935.

Wally, anonymous here due to the AA tradition, said he had traveled to the home of Smith in Akron "on a whim," and found himself with eight people, each with 40 years of sobriety. There he discovered AA meetings as they were held in the 1940s. This particular meeting happened once a year.

"I had a conversion in Dr. Bob's living room," he said. "I had been divinely directed to be at that place at that time ... That's when I decided to carry the message for the rest of my life."

He came away with a commitment to research "beginners' meetings" that took problem drinkers through the steps in four one-hour sessions, as they came into the program.

"In the process, they discovered a God of their understanding and a new way of living based on the guidelines of trust God, clean house and help others," Wally said.

Welcoming all to the "1946 re-enactment" meeting, he gave an overview and said the program is "a spiritual way of life" that begins with the first step, which is surrender, with acceptance of "powerlessness" over alcohol.

The next session dealt with steps two, three and four and the necessity of grasping the concept of a "higher power," before taking a moral inventory of the self along the lines of a business ledger with assets and liabilities.

Session three, steps five through nine, was putting the program into action: Acknowledging wrongs, dealing



Above, a portion of the crowd Saturday at the program. Below, Wally signs one of his books in between sessions. ROLAND STOY PHOTOS

with character defects and being willing to have God remove them before going on to make amends to people wherever necessary.

"This is the payoff. This is what it is all about," said Wally as he went into session four. "Among the blessings are that we can watch people grow spiritually before our very eyes."

Going over steps 10, 11 and 12, he said people can begin to live lives of honesty, purity, unselfishness and love.

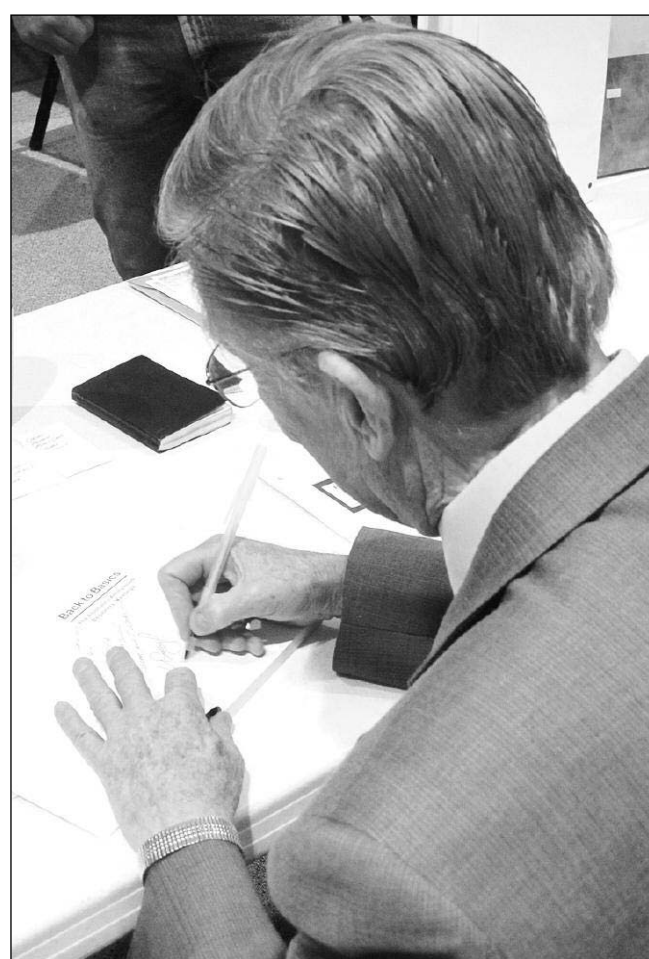
"There is security in recovery, in helping and working with others," Wally said.

He conducted another session on Sunday afternoon, specifically on step 11, "How to Listen to God." Not everyone in the crowd was alcoholic or of some other addiction.

Richard Bowerman was there because he is part of the jail ministry in Branch County and in Angola.

Noting that if alcohol and drugs are not the primary reason people are in jail, he said they are often a major contributing factor.

"I'm just here to find out anything that will help me get through to the guys in



jail," he said.

Wally said an "angel on the ground" got through to him many years ago and put him on the path that led

him to Smith's house.

He had come back from the Vietnam War addicted to opiates, and for years went from city to city, drug

The 12 Steps

- The 12 Steps. Wally said people may substitute any addiction for alcohol:
1. We admitted we were powerless over alcohol — that our lives had become unmanageable.
 2. Came to believe that a Power greater than ourselves could restore us to sanity.
 3. Made a decision to turn our will and our lives over to the care of God as we understood Him.
 4. Made a searching and fearless moral inventory of ourselves.
 5. Admitted to God, to ourselves, and to another human being the exact nature of our wrongs.
 6. Were entirely ready to have God remove all these defects of character.
 7. Humbly asked Him to remove our shortcomings.
 8. Made a list of all persons we had harmed, and became willing to make amends to them all.
 9. Made direct amends to such people wherever possible, except when to do so would injure them or others.
 10. Continued to take personal inventory and when we were wrong promptly admitted it.
 11. Sought through prayer and meditation to improve our conscious contact with God, as we understood Him, praying only for knowledge of His will for us and the power to carry that out.
 12. Having had a spiritual awakening as the result of these Steps, we tried to carry this message to alcoholics, and to practice these principles in all our affairs.

to drug. He said he could leave drugs alone, but alcohol ruled him.

"Alcohol kicked my (behind)," he said.

Wally has a bachelor's degree in research chemistry and a master's in statistics, but the statistic that matters most to him is that he has shared "Back to Basics" with 500,000 people, and estimates 300,000 people are alive because of it.

Wally thanked the crowd of over 100 profusely Saturday as he wrapped up that day.

"You are my inspiration," he said. "You make all of this worthwhile."

RELIGION CORNER

You have to become your own mom

I once interviewed college students at the end of their freshman year, asking them for advice that would help new students going off to school in the fall. These men and women, with a year of college under their belts, were open about their first-year struggles and realistic about the challenges of life away from home.

I was particularly impressed by the young woman who said, "You have to become your own mom." She admitted that she didn't always appreciate her mom's advice (she may have used the word "nagging"), but she realized that her mom wanted what was best for her.

She explained that mom "tells you to do things that you know you should do but don't feel like doing, like studying and going to church." I came away from our conversation with a new understanding of what it means to grow up. Being an adult means becoming your own mom.



Shayne Looper

A number of the students cautioned against procrastination. They talked about how easy and exciting the first few months of the semester were. No one was looking over their shoulders, telling them what to do. The term papers and end-of-semester projects seemed infinitely far off.

Then came the Great Awakening. A few weeks before the end of term, reality burst into their rooms and shook them from their stupor. Stress levels soared. All-nighters piled up and grades came back

mediocre. Where was mom when you needed her? Oh yeah — you have to become your own mom.

When asked what students can do to protect themselves from spiritual decline, one of them said: "Take responsibility for your own spiritual life." All of them agreed that you "can't allow yourself to adopt other people's attitudes and standards." What was it that mom always said? "Bad company corrupts good character."

A psychological study from a few years ago illustrated their point powerfully. Teenagers in groups of 10 were invited into a room where three charts were displayed. Each chart had three lines of different lengths. The group members were asked to raise their hands when the adult leader pointed to the longest line on each chart.

All the teens but one had been previously instructed to raise their hands when the second-longest line was indicated.

Each time the lone teen hesitated. He or she looked confused. In the end, though, 75 percent of these teens cast a wrong vote. Their need to blend in with their environment overcame their sense of sight — and their common sense, as well.

And peer pressure is not limited to teens. Its influence on adults in politics, business and daily life is immeasurable. It's long been known, for example, that couples are at greater risk of divorce who move in social circles where divorces have occurred.

Similarly, the *New England Journal of Medicine* reported that diet is heavily influenced by one's circle of friends. The study found that the threat of obesity increases 57 percent if a person's friends are overweight.

Sports Illustrated recently ran a story on home field advantage in sports. It is obviously real, and yet performance statistics such as pitch speed or free

throw averages remain the same at home and away. So what's behind it? Authors Tobias Moskowitz and L. John Wertheim claim that "Officials' bias is the most significant contribution to home field advantage." Officials don't like to get booed, and in a close contest they call fewer fouls against the home team.

All this suggests that one of the best things a person can do (whether teen or adult) is surround himself or herself with people of high spiritual, moral and ethical character. As the ancient wise man put it, "He who walks with the wise grows wise, but a companion of fools suffers harm" (Proverbs 13:20). Or, as mom used to say, "Birds of a feather flock together."

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