

Alcoholics Anonymous: Cult Or Cure

Thought-terminating cliché

form of loaded language. Charles 'Chaz' Bufo in his book Alcoholics Anonymous: Cult or Cure? (1997) broadly put the use of the cliché as "thought-stopping

A thought-terminating cliché (also known as a semantic stop-sign, a thought-stopper, bumper sticker logic, or cliché thinking) is a form of loaded language—often passing as folk wisdom—intended to end an argument and quell cognitive dissonance with a cliché rather than a point. Some such clichés are not inherently terminating, and only become so when used to intentionally dismiss, dissent, or justify fallacies.

The term was popularized by Robert Jay Lifton in his 1961 book *Thought Reform and the Psychology of Totalism*, who referred to the use of the cliché, along with "loading the language", as "the language of non-thought".

Alcoholics Anonymous

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Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) is a global, peer-led mutual-aid fellowship focused on an abstinence-based recovery model from alcoholism through its spiritually inclined twelve-step program. AA's Twelve Traditions, besides emphasizing anonymity, stress lack of hierarchy, staying non-promotional, and non-professional, while also unaffiliated, non-denominational, apolitical and free to all. As of 2021, AA estimated it is active in 180 countries with an estimated membership of nearly two million—73% in the United States and Canada.

AA traces its origins to a 1935 meeting between Bill Wilson (commonly referred to as Bill W.) and Bob Smith (Dr. Bob), two individuals seeking to address their shared struggles with alcoholism. Their collaboration, influenced by the Christian revivalist Oxford Group, evolved into a mutual support group that eventually became AA. In 1939, the fellowship published *Alcoholics Anonymous: The Story of How More than One Hundred Men Have Recovered from Alcoholism*, colloquially known as the "Big Book". This publication introduced the twelve-step program and provided the basis for the organization's name. Later editions of the book expanded its subtitle to reflect the inclusion of "Thousands of Men and Women".

The Twelve Steps outline a suggested program of ongoing drug rehabilitation and self-improvement. A key component involves seeking alignment or divining with a personally defined concept of "God as we understood Him". The steps begin with an acknowledgment of powerlessness over alcohol and the unmanageability of life due to alcoholism. Subsequent steps emphasize rigorous honesty, including the completion of a "searching and fearless moral inventory", acknowledgment of "character defects", sharing the inventory with a trusted person, making amends to individuals harmed, and engaging in regular prayer or meditation to seek "conscious contact with God" and guidance in following divine will. The final step, the 12th, focuses on maintaining the principles of recovery, sharing the message with other alcoholics, and participating in "12th Step work," such as peer sponsorship, organizing meetings, and outreach to institutions like hospitals and prisons.

AA meetings differ in format, with variations including personal storytelling, readings from the Big Book, and open discussions. While certain meetings may cater to specific demographic groups, attendance is generally open to anyone with a desire to stop drinking alcohol. The organization is self-supporting through member donations and literature sales. Its operations follow an "inverted pyramid" structure, allowing local

groups significant autonomy. AA does not accept external funding or contributions.

Empirical evidence supports AA's efficacy. A 2020 Cochrane review found that manualized AA and Twelve-Step Facilitation (TSF) therapy demonstrated higher rates of continuous abstinence compared to alternative treatments, such as cognitive-behavioral therapy, with added healthcare cost savings over time.

Criticism of AA has addressed various aspects of its program and operations. Concerns have been raised about its overall success rate, the perceived religious nature of its approach, and allegations of cult-like elements. Additional critiques include reports of "thirteenth-stepping", where senior members engage romantically with newer members, and legal challenges related to safety and the religious content of court-mandated participation in AA programs.

Chaz Bufe

Heretic's Dictionary (1992, revised and expanded edition 2016) *Alcoholics Anonymous: Cult or Cure?* (1991, 2nd ed. 1998) *The Heretic's Handbook of Quotations*

Charles Bufe, better known as Chaz Bufe, is a contemporary American anarchist author. Bufe writes on a wide variety of topics, and has published 16 books, most under the See Sharp Press imprint but one ("Godless") was published by PM Press and another ("Dreams of Freedom") by AK Press.

Hydrotherapy

"Alcoholic mental disorders". American Journal of Nursing. 37 (3): 225–243. doi:10.2307/3414142. JSTOR 3414142. Alcoholics Anonymous. Alcoholics Anonymous

Hydrotherapy, formerly called hydropathy and also called water cure, is a branch of alternative medicine (particularly naturopathy), occupational therapy, and physiotherapy, that involves the use of water for pain relief and treatment. The term encompasses a broad range of approaches and therapeutic methods that take advantage of the physical properties of water, such as temperature and pressure, to stimulate blood circulation and treat the symptoms of certain diseases.

Various therapies used in the present-day hydrotherapy employ water jets, underwater massage and mineral baths (e.g. balneotherapy, Iodine-Grine therapy, Kneipp treatments, Scotch hose, Swiss shower, thalassotherapy) or whirlpool bath, hot Roman bath, hot tub, Jacuzzi, and cold plunge.

Hydrotherapy lacks robust evidence supporting its efficacy beyond placebo effects. Systematic reviews of randomized controlled trials have consistently found no clear evidence of curative effects, citing methodological flaws and insufficient data. Overall, the scientific consensus indicates that hydrotherapy's benefits are not conclusively greater than those of placebo treatments.

Carl Jung

recommended spirituality as a cure for alcoholism, and is considered to have had an indirect role in establishing Alcoholics Anonymous. Jung treated an American

Carl Gustav Jung (YUUNG; Swiss Standard German: [karl jʔʔ]; 26 July 1875 – 6 June 1961) was a Swiss psychiatrist, psychotherapist, and psychologist who founded the school of analytical psychology. A prolific author of over twenty books, illustrator, and correspondent, Jung was a complex and convoluted academic, best known for his concept of archetypes. Alongside contemporaries Sigmund Freud and Alfred Adler, Jung became one of the most influential psychologists of the early 20th century and has fostered not only scholarship, but also popular interest.

Jung's work has been influential in the fields of psychiatry, anthropology, archaeology, literature, philosophy, psychology, and religious studies. He worked as a research scientist at the Burghölzli psychiatric hospital in Zurich, under Eugen Bleuler. Jung established himself as an influential mind, developing a friendship with Freud, founder of psychoanalysis, conducting a lengthy correspondence paramount to their joint vision of human psychology. Jung is widely regarded as one of the most influential psychologists in history.

Freud saw the younger Jung not only as the heir he had been seeking to take forward his "new science" of psychoanalysis but as a means to legitimize his own work: Freud and other contemporary psychoanalysts were Jews facing rising antisemitism in Europe, and Jung was raised as Christian, although he did not strictly adhere to traditional Christian doctrine, he saw religion, including Christianity, as a powerful expression of the human psyche and its search for meaning. Freud secured Jung's appointment as president of Freud's newly founded International Psychoanalytical Association. Jung's research and personal vision, however, made it difficult to follow his older colleague's doctrine, and they parted ways. This division was painful for Jung and resulted in the establishment of Jung's analytical psychology, as a comprehensive system separate from psychoanalysis.

Among the central concepts of analytical psychology is individuation—the lifelong psychological process of differentiation of the self out of each individual's conscious and unconscious elements. Jung considered it to be the main task of human development. He created some of the best-known psychological concepts, including synchronicity, archetypal phenomena, the collective unconscious, the psychological complex, and extraversion and introversion. His treatment of American businessman and politician Rowland Hazard in 1926 with his conviction that alcoholics may recover if they have a "vital spiritual (or religious) experience" played a crucial role in the chain of events that led to the formation of Alcoholics Anonymous. Jung was an artist, craftsman, builder, and prolific writer. Many of his works were not published until after his death, and some remain unpublished.

Scientology in the United Kingdom

a "cult"; The Guardian. Retrieved 23 July 2018. Williams 2007, p. 129 Williams 2007, p. 130 Bracchi, Paul (13 June 1994). "Secret of a drugs cure";

Scientology in the United Kingdom is practised mainly within the Church of Scientology and its related groups, which go under names including the Hubbard Academy of Personal Independence and the Dianetics and Scientology Life Improvement Centre. The national headquarters (and former global headquarters) are at Saint Hill Manor near East Grinstead, which was also the home of Scientology creator L. Ron Hubbard for seven years. 1,844 individuals in England and Wales listed themselves as Scientologists in 2021, marking a decline of just under 25% since 2011; half of these respondents listed themselves as living in and around East Grinstead.

The Church has used covert intelligence gathering, harassment, and smear campaigns against its British opponents, though on a much smaller scale compared to its activities in the United States. It has been recognised as a religion by some British authorities, but is not itself a registered charity. Scientology-connected groups promoting aspects of Hubbard's teaching, including Narconon and the Citizens Commission on Human Rights, have also been active in the UK and have even received charity status in some cases. There have also been groups practising Scientology independently of the Church.

Scientology has received criticism from British courts who called it "pernicious nonsense", "dangerous material", and "immoral and socially obnoxious". It has been described in Parliament as a "socially harmful enterprise" which "indoctrinates children and other vulnerable people" by "ignorantly practising quasi-psychological techniques". The British government's 1971 report into Scientology featured many high-ranking officials deeming it an "evil cult", whilst a secret 1977 report by the Department of Health and Social Security referred to it as a "considerable evil".

John Slocum

Joan Weibel-Orlando, "The Indian Shaker Church and Alcoholics Anonymous: Revitalistic Curing Cults," *Human Organization*, Vol. 45, No. 4 (Winter 1986)

Squ-sacht-un (1838 – 11 November 1897), also known as John Slocum, was a member of the Squaxin Island Tribe, Coast Salish, and a reputed holy man and prophet who founded the Indian Shaker Church in 1881.

Carol Burnett

Retrieved June 21, 2018. Parks, Michael (November 1, 1988). "Alcoholics Anonymous:Soviets Try Proven Cure for Drinking": *Los Angeles Times*. Retrieved August 6

Carol Creighton Burnett (born April 26, 1933) is an American comedian, actress, singer and writer. Burnett has played dramatic and comedic roles on stage and screen. She has received numerous awards and accolades, including seven Golden Globe Awards, a Grammy Award, seven Primetime Emmy Awards, twelve People's Choice Awards, two Peabody Awards and a Tony Award. Burnett has been honored with

a Star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame in 1975, the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 2005, the Mark Twain Prize for American Humor in 2013, and the Screen Actors Guild Life Achievement Award in 2015.

Burnett was born and raised in San Antonio, Texas, until her family moved to Hollywood, living a block away from Hollywood Boulevard. She attended Hollywood High School and eventually studied theater and musical comedy at UCLA. Later, she performed in nightclubs in New York City and had a breakout success on Broadway in 1959 in *Once Upon a Mattress*, for which she received a Tony Award nomination. She soon made her television debut, regularly appearing on *The Garry Moore Show* for the next three years, and won her first Emmy Award in 1962.

Eventually, Burnett moved back to Los Angeles and began an 11-year run as star of the CBS variety-sketch comedy series *The Carol Burnett Show* from 1967 to 1978. She is the first woman to host a comedy-variety series. With its vaudeville roots, *The Carol Burnett Show* was a variety show that combined comedy sketches with song and dance. The comedy sketches included film parodies and character pieces. Burnett created many memorable characters during the show's run, and both she and the show won numerous Emmy and Golden Globe Awards.

Burnett's film roles include *Pete 'n' Tillie* (1972), *The Front Page* (1974), *A Wedding* (1978), *The Four Seasons* (1981), *Annie* (1982), *Noises Off* (1992), and *Horton Hears a Who!* (2008). On television, she won an Emmy Award for her guest role in *Mad About You* and appeared in multiple specials with Julie Andrews. She was Tony-nominated for her role in *Moon Over Buffalo* (1995). Recently she has acted in *Better Call Saul* (2022), *Palm Royale* (2024), and *Hacks* (2025). She recorded her memoir *In Such Good Company* (2016) for which she won a Grammy Award.

In 2019, the Golden Globes created the Carol Burnett Award for career achievement in television, giving Burnett the first award. She was honored with an NBC special *Carol Burnett: 90 Years of Laughter + Love* celebrating her 90th birthday.

List of Christmas films

the Supernatural. ISBN 9781498541824. "Ten Feel-Bad Christmas Movies to Cure You of Holiday Cheer": 17 December 2014. "My Painful Quest to Find the Worst

Many Christmas stories have been adapted to feature films and TV specials, and have been broadcast and repeated many times on television. Since the popularization of home video in the 1980s, these films are sold and re-sold every year during the holiday shopping season. Many television networks, film studios, and

production companies, such as cable television channels Hallmark and Lifetime, produce and release new Christmas-themed films every year during or around December, all with different variations of similar plots and themes. Additionally, films revolving around the Nativity story of Christmas are regularly produced such as *The Nativity Story* (2006) and *The Star* (2017).

One film that has become the flashpoint for "Is this a Christmas movie or not?" debates is *Die Hard* (1988), with some viewing the film as a Christmas movie intertwined with an action genre setting or a film that is simply set around the Christmas and holiday season.

List of Deadly Women episodes

four. Note: This is the first season of the show to display the mugshots (or artist renditions if they lived before the days of modern photography) of

Deadly Women is an American documentary television series focusing on true crime, specifically female killers. It first aired in 2005 on the Discovery Channel. It was originally based on a TV documentary film called *Poisonous Women*, which was released in 2003. *Deadly Women* started as a miniseries comprising three episodes: "Obsession", "Greed", and "Revenge". After a three-year hiatus, the show resumed production in 2008 and began airing on the Investigation Discovery channel as a regularly scheduled series. The series is produced in Australia by Beyond International.

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