

**“VICTOR E.  
&  
THE SLOGANS”**

**Presented by:**

**The Eastern PA Players**

**International Convention  
Alcoholics Anonymous**

**Saturday, July 2, 2005**

**1:30 p.m. – CCS 711**

**Toronto, Canada**

# **The Players:**

Anne P.  
Evelyn D.  
Gary L.  
Gwen T.  
Hugo McK.  
Joe C.  
Karen T.  
Larry A.  
Michael R.  
Sheila D.  
Tom R.  
Vincetta F.  
Wallace T.

**Scripted & directed by: Tony H.**

## **Victor E. & the Slogans**

### **Introduction**

#### ***Victor E.***

The creation of Jack M., a Grapevine editor, Victor E. made his debut in the July 1962 Grapevine. For more than forty years, Victor has stood before the saloon, looking longingly past its swinging doors, but every time his Higher Power has intervened and kept him from drinking. Some readers wonder how strong Victor E.'s sobriety is, since he keeps showing up at a bar. Others feel he is no different from any other alcoholic facing this cunning and baffling disease. Whatever his shortcomings and however strong his desire to drink, Victor E. hasn't picked up a drink in all these years. And that's how he earns his name. (*A Guide to the Grapevine*, p. 7)

“Victor is not a single AA member with forty-two years of sobriety, he is all of us. ... [T]he bar is not a bar at all; it is all of the things we bump into, day-to-day, that could get us to resume our destructive behavior with alcohol.” (Dennis O., P.O. Box 1980 – letter, April 2005)

#### ***Five AA Slogans (1956-1957)***

AA members mention the use of “First Things First” and other helpful sayings in the Grapevine as early as the June 1945 issue. However, they didn't find a permanent place in many AA's kit of recovery tools until the Grapevine ran a series on all five slogans—“First Things First,” “There But for the Grace of God,” “Easy Does It,” “Think, Think, Think,” and “Live and Let Live” ---between September 1956 and February 1957. Each of those issues featured a hand-lettered slogan on the inside back cover and an essay about it inside. (*A Guide to the Grapevine*, p. 61)

The five skits that follow combine these two Grapevine productions. All the skits are crudely adapted dramatizations of Victor E. cartoons published in the *AA Grapevine*.

#### **Format**

After each skit, we'll have a 5-10 minute sharing session, during which we invite you to go to the mike and share what the slogan or the skit means to you in recovery.

## **“First Things First”**

**Cast:**

Narrator  
Victor E.  
GvR/RLV  
Bar doors  
Slogan bearers (3 – English, Spanish, French)

**Props:**

Swinging bar doors  
Set of GVs  
Wallet (Victor E’s)  
Slogans  
Handkerchief (Victor E.)

**Narrator:**

Here comes our long-time member, Victor E., going to the old bar again. Do you know anybody like this?

**Victor E.** enters (from the right), goes to stand at the barroom doors, apparently sweating, mopping his brow with handkerchief).

**Narrator:**

Can you imagine? What’s wrong with him? He’s thinking how great it would be just to go inside for a minute or two ... not really to drink ... just to sit at the bar and have a soda before going to a meeting.

**Victor E.** reaches out with his hand toward the doors.

**Narrator:**

But wait...Who are these people?

**GvR/RLV** enter from the left, waving copies of Grapevine, La Viña, La Vigne.

**Narrator:**

Well, if it isn’t the trusty Grapevine/La Viña/ La Vigne Reps. from Victor E.’s home group! What a relief!

**GvR/RLV** push copies of the Grapevine in Victor E’s face.

**Narrator:**

Isn’t it always better to buy a Grapevine rather than a drink?

**Slogan bearers** carry the slogan “First Things First” across the stage.

**Victor E.** pulls out his wallet and buys Grapevine/La Viña/La Vigne.

**Victor E.** and the **GvR/RLVs** exit left, hand in hand.

**Narrator:**

First things first: they’re all going to a meeting. Now that’s a real VICTOR-Y.

## **“But For the Grace of God”**

**Cast:**

Narrator  
Victor E.  
Drunk (1)  
Bar doors  
Slogan bearers (3 – English, Spanish, French)

**Props:**

Swinging bar doors  
AA literature (GV, pamphlets)  
Slogans

**Narrator:**

Oh-oh! Here’s comes our old friend Victor E. again. What’s she up to now?  
Hasn’t she heard about avoiding people, places, and things?

**Victor E.** enters (stage right), goes to the barroom doors, acts as if she’s going to go in...

**Narrator:**

Well, it had to happen sooner or later. It looks as if she’s going to do it this time.

**Drunk** appears, crawling on the floor under the barroom doors and past Victor E.

**Victor E.** watches him as he passes.

**Narrator:**

What do you think Victor E. is thinking now?

**Slogan bearers** carry the slogan “But for the Grace of God” across the stage.

**Victor E.** picks the drunk up and takes him off-stage (right).

**Narrator:**

Well, it’s a good thing that Victor E. remembers her primary purpose. She is going to take this drunk to a meeting. When last have you done that?

## “Easy Does It”

**Cast:**

Narrator  
Victor E.  
Doctor  
Bar doors  
Slogan bearers (3 – English, Spanish, French)

**Props:**

Swinging bar doors  
Telephone with cord  
Slogans  
Doctor’s bag, stethoscope, coat  
Prescription

**Narrator:**

I can’t believe it. Here comes Victor E. again. When oh when is he going to learn.

**Victor E.** enters stage right, stops in front of the bar doors.

**Narrator:**

This time it looks like he’s really in a bad way. He’s like Dr. Bob. He badly wants a drink. He feels he’s going to die if he doesn’t get a drink.

**Doctor** enters (stage left), carrying a medical bag.

**Narrator:**

Oh. Here’s a doctor. I wonder whether s/he can help.

**Doctor** notices Victor E’s condition, stops to talk to him, examines him from head to toe.

**Narrator:**

The doctor seems to know what’s wrong with Victor E.

**Doctor** writes out a prescription for Victor E. (pretends to write on large pad, then rolls it up).

**Narrator:**

I wonder what the doctor is prescribing for Victor E.

**Doctor** gives the prescription to Victor E..

**Victor E.** holds up the prescription so audience can see it. It reads: “Easy Does It. Get to a meeting.”

**Slogan bearers** take the “Easy Does It” slogan across the stage.

**Victor E.** exits stage right, smiling.

## “Think, Think, Think!”

### Cast:

Narrator  
Victor E.  
Bartender  
Sponsor (Voice)  
Bar doors  
Slogan bearers (3 – English, Spanish, French)

### Props:

Swinging bar doors  
Telephone with cord  
Telephone ringer  
Slogans

**Victor E.** enters, goes to stand at the barroom doors.

### Narrator:

Can you believe it? Here’s Victor E. again, standing at those barroom doors, thinking about drinking, almost tempted to go in. She’s really not thinking straight.

### Loud sound of telephone ringing

**Bartender** comes from behind doors with phone in hand and looks around until he sees Victor E..

### Narrator:

It looks like there’s a telephone call for Victor E.

**Victor E.** takes the phone from the bartender.

### Narrator:

I wonder who is on the line? Who could possibly be calling Victor E. right now?

### Sponsor (offstage – very loud):

This is your sponsor...Get away from those swinging doors.

**Victor E.** almost drops the phone in shock.

The **Bartender** recovers the phone and goes back inside through the doors.

**Victor E.** walks away... (stage right)

### Narrator:

Having a sponsor can save your life ... and help you remember... to “Think, Think, Think.”

**Slogan bearers** carry the slogan “Think, Think, Think” across the stage.

## **“Live and Let Live”**

**Cast:**

Narrator  
Victor E.  
Drunks (2)  
Bar doors  
Slogan bearers (3 – English, Spanish, French)

**Props:**

Swinging bar doors  
AA literature (GV, pamphlets)  
Slogans

**Victor E.** enters (stage left), stops at the bar doors.

**Narrator:**

Here’s our friend Victor E. again. Talk about holding on to old ideas. He’s tempted again. Is he going to go in this time?

**Victor E.** extends a hand toward the bar doors, as if he’s going to go through them.

**Narrator:**

Oh, he’s really close to the edge. What can save him this time?

**Two drunks** burst through the bar doors, fighting... almost knocking over Victor E.

**Two drunks** continue fighting, close to Victor E.

**Narrator:**

What a mess! What should Victor E. do? Should he get angry? Wouldn’t that make you angry?

**Victor E.** looks at the drunks as if he’s getting angry.

**Slogan bearers** carry the slogan “Live and Let Live” across the stage.

**Victor E.** turns his back to the drunks, pulls some AA literature out of his jacket pocket, hands it to the drunks.

**Narrator:**

Fortunately, Victor E. remembers he has some AA literature with him (and of course the Grapevine)

The **drunks** take the literature, start reading it, then exit stage left, hands around each other’s shoulder.

**Victor E.** exits stage right, looking virtuous and grateful.

**Narrator:**

And he still hasn’t picked up a drink. that’s Victor E... VICTOR-Y



**Cast:**

Narrators (3 – English, Spanish, French)

Victor E. (2?)

Bartender (1)

Sponsor (Voice) (1)

Bar doors

Slogan bearers (3 – English, Spanish, French)

Doctor (1)

Fighting Drunks (2)

Crawling Drunk (1)

GvR/LVR/RLV reps (3)

**Props:**

Swinging bar doors (poster board on poles)

Telephone with cord

Slogans (poster board on poles) – 3 languages

Doctor's bag

Stethoscope

Doctor's coat

Prescription (large pad)

AA literature (GV, pamphlets)

Set of Grapevines, La Vigne, La Viña

Shoulder bag marked "Grapevine"

Wallet (Victor E's)

Handkerchief (Victor E.)

Telephone ringer

2 microphones (one on podium, 1 hand held)

Podium on stage

## VICTOR E. et LES SLOGANS

### *Victor E.*

Victor E., créé par Jack M., ancien rédacteur en chef du Grapevine, apparut pour la première fois dans le numéro de juillet 1962. Depuis plus de 40 ans, Victor se tient devant le bar, à regarder avec nostalgie à travers les portes battantes. Mais chaque fois sa Puissance Supérieure intervient et l'empêche de boire. Certains lecteurs mettent en question la solidité de la sobriété de Victor, parce qu'il continue de se trouver devant un bar. D'autres pensent qu'il n'est pas différent de n'importe quel autre alcoolique en face de cette maladie rusée et déroutante. Quelles que soient ses déficiences, et si grand que soit son désir de boire, Victor E. n'a pas pris de boisson pendant toutes ces années. Et c'est à cause de cela qu'il mérite son nom. (*A Guide to the Grapevine*, p. 7).

Dans une lettre adressée au Grapevine au mois d'avril, 2005, Dennis O. partage l'opinion suivante: « Victor n'est pas un seul membre AA qui est sobre depuis 42 ans, il est chacun de nous... Le bar n'est pas du tout un bar; c'est toutes ces choses contre lesquelles nous nous cognons jour après jour, et qui peuvent nous faire recommencer à nous conduire de façon destructrice avec l'alcool. »

### *Cinq slogans des AA (1956-1957)*

Selon certains membres, « L'Important d'Abord » et d'autres dictons utiles ont été utilisés dans le Grapevine dès le numéro de juin 1945. Ce n'était pourtant qu'après la publication par le Grapevine d'une série d'articles sur tous les cinq slogans, entre septembre 1956 et février 1957, que ces dictons ont trouvé une place permanente dans la trousse à outils de rétablissement de beaucoup des AA. Chacun de ces numéros mettait en vedette à l'intérieur de la couverture arrière un slogan aux caractères gravés à la main et un article sur le slogan. (*A Guide to the Grapevine*, p. 61).

Les cinq sketches qui suivent sont une fusion de ces deux productions du Grapevine. Ces sketches sont une dramatisation et une adaptation plutôt crues des dessins de Victor E. publiés dans le Grapevine.

### *Programme*

A la fin de chaque sketch nous aurons une pause de 5 à 10 minutes pour la discussion, au cours de laquelle nous vous invitons à aller au micro et à partager avec nous la signification que le slogan ou le sketch a pour vous par rapport à votre rétablissement.