

Obituary for Alan E. Halloran (1946-1993)

by Phillip W. Weiss¹

This obituary recounts the life of a talented yet troubled man who could have been a huge success had he not had certain personality flaws which proved to be his undoing.

Known by his friends as Al, Alan Edward Halloran was born in Brooklyn, New York on December 11, 1946. His parents were Alan F. and Dina Halloran. He was an only child. Al grew up in Brooklyn Heights. He graduated from Samuel H. Tilden High School. People who knew Al as a child said that he had a happy and normal childhood. After high school, he attended college and earned a bachelor's degree (although there were rumors that his degree was fake). He was employed as a caseworker for the New York City Department of Social Services. Some mistook him for a social worker.

During his work career, Al never got promoted nor did he ever apply for a promotion. He was employed by the city for twenty years. For most of his tenure with the city he worked at an income maintenance center, a city office that processed applications for public assistance. This office was located just a few blocks from where he lived. Thus Al did not have to commute to work.

At the income maintenance center, Al was assigned to the housing section. His duties were to verify an applicant's housing situation and then refer the applicant back to the income maintenance section for further processing. This was an office-based job that required only brief contacts with the applicants. Al performed this work satisfactorily. The work was neither onerous nor especially demanding. For Al, it was a comfortable niche.

¹ This essay is a true story. Only the names and dates have been changed.

Al's work situation remained unchanged for about seventeen years. Then, suddenly, without warning, the city involuntarily reassigned him to the Bureau of Child Welfare, also known as BCW. His new official title was Child Protective Services Worker. His new office was in Manhattan. This one bureaucratic administrative action changed Al's life forever.

Child protective services is a high-stress assignment that places tremendous pressure on the worker to perform. Al never adjusted to this change. It completely upset his daily routine. He now had to commute to work. His three-hour lunches came to an end. He now had to go to the field and investigate allegations of child neglect and abuse. By habit and temperament Al was ill-equipped to do this work. He was now a field worker and he did not like it.

There is no record whether he considered options such as going back to school, applying for another city job, or applying for a promotional examination. He did talk about applying for a job as a bartender or assistant social director on a cruise ship. Whether he acted on that talk is unknown. It can be argued that this change marked the point where Al's life in general began to crumble. His consumption of alcohol intensified.

Al's career with the city abruptly ended when he was caught and prosecuted for embezzlement of public funds involving the fraudulent issuance of public assistance checks to people not eligible for assistance and then splitting the money with said persons. It is uncertain whether he committed these acts before or after his transfer to BCW. Nevertheless, the court sentenced him to five years' probation. He also lost his pension benefits and health insurance coverage, which immediately put Al at risk of becoming destitute.

For a time, Al had no income. He found temporary work as a caseworker in a drop-in shelter in Manhattan, where working conditions were rough. His

employment there soon ended. Finally, he applied for and eventually was granted social security disability benefits. Yet, it was too little too late. Although Al never gave up on himself, the series of events that produced such drastic changes in his life proved too much for him to overcome.

Socioeconomically, Al was lower middle class. He was a lower level bureaucrat in a huge government agency that provided income support to poor people. He had a low prestige job that afforded him a modest income. Economically, Al was not far removed from the clients he served. It is doubtful that he saved money. Nevertheless, while he was employed, he never complained about financial problems nor did he ever talk about his clients or make his work a subject for conversation. For Al, his city job was simply a means to an end, not to actualize himself but to pay the bills and allow him to live a certain lifestyle.

Although he worked in a union shop and was a member of a public employees' union, Al had nothing to do with the union. Indeed, he demonstrated no interest in the status of contract negotiations or other work related issues. Prior to his felony conviction that got him fired, the only work-related infraction he committed was taking three-hour lunches. His supervisors counseled him over the need to shorten his lunch break but to no avail. Nevertheless he had a good relationship with his supervisors. One, Tim Coburn, who, like Al was of Irish background, liked Al and found him amusing. His three-hour lunches notwithstanding, Al managed to perform his duties without making waves.

Al had many talents and interests. He was an avid sports fan. His favorite team was the New York Mets. He attended the 1973 playoff game between the

Mets and the Cincinnati Reds which the Mets won to win the pennant. He also followed current events and routinely expressed his opinions on issues of public interest. He was in Chicago during the 1968 Democratic Convention. His reason for going to Chicago is unknown.

Al was also a history buff and owned a large collection of history books. His collection included many books about Adolf Hitler, the Holocaust and the Nazis. Al prominently displayed these books in his apartment. Al also enjoyed watching movies and videos about Hitler, the Holocaust and the Nazis, not so much for their historical content but to observe the reactions of others to the material which, for many, produced a measure of shock.

Not surprisingly, many believed Al to be an anti-Semite. These allegations, although understandable, were false. Although he felt contempt for the Jews for not fighting back during the war, he harbored no animosity toward Jewish people. He never bullied Jewish people or otherwise mistreated them. In fact, he associated with many Jewish people, including a few who he respected. Al used his collection of Nazi history material not to denigrate any specific group or promote a political agenda but as a social prop meant to intrigue women. Indeed, regarding politics, Al was apolitical. He never engaged in any conversations about politics nor did he ever express a preference for a particularly political party or creed.

This is not to suggest that Al was oblivious to current events. He avidly followed the news. Al had a cynical opinion of people and society. However, he

never further developed his thoughts on these subjects, hence his level of civic consciousness is unknown. That can only be inferred. He was not a writer, so he did not commit his thoughts to writing, nor were there any issues that ever gave him cause to get involved in politics. It is unknown for whom he voted at election time or if he even voted all.

Al liked movies. His favorite genres were action adventure, gangster, war and comedy. He preferred movies that included graphic violence. Al liked slapstick comedy. His favorite comic was the English comedian Benny Hill. He was an excellent ping pong player and billiards player. Al liked to win and felt humiliated when he lost. Al also liked cats and always had a cat for a pet. A friend of his relates a story of how Al, the same person who derived amusement from watching videos of Nazi brutality, became distraught to the point of tears after he lost his cat. Al enjoyed disco music, especially songs performed by black entertainers. He used disco music as a prop when entertaining women. He wanted to show that he was cool. It was the only genre of music that he liked.

However, where Al most effectively actualized his potential was as a social organizer. Despite being a subordinate at work, Al was a natural born leader. He had charisma. People followed him. Al attended hundreds of single's functions, both in New York City and in the Catskill Mountains whenever a hotel was hosting a single's weekend event. He also attended scores of house parties, both in New York City and Los Angeles. He was constantly on the phone with friends, exhorting them to join him in these various activities.

Al achieved his greatest success as a social organizer at Fire Island. Each summer for ten straight years, Al rented a house at Fire Island. His house was always full of visitors and guests. Known as a gracious and hospitable host, Al's presence attracted throngs of people to his house which became a venue for exciting and popular social gatherings. People came from near and far to attend his parties and to stay at his house, even if they had to pay. Al knew how to have a good time and share his good times with others.

Of all the people in Al's life, he had the strangest relationship with a gentleman named Aaron Schoenstein. In many fundamental respects Al and Aaron were opposites. Al was calm while Aaron was excitable; Al was tall with a medium build while Aaron was short and obese; Al was Irish and Protestant while Aaron was Jewish; Al was an extrovert while Aaron was an introvert; Al had his own apartment while Aaron lived with his mother; Al scored with women while Aaron was, in Al's opinion, a perennial loser. Yet Al formed a symbiotic relationship with Aaron, a relationship that lasted for years.

Their relationship was based on expediency. Al, who had a social life, needed a car and Aaron, who had a car, needed a social life. By serving as Al's chauffeur, Aaron, who otherwise had no friends, gained a social life while Al, whose lack of a car placed a severe limitation on the number of functions he could attend, gained mobility which allowed him to attend more single's functions. Although both men often bickered, their relationship worked. Whether they liked or cared for each other is uncertain, nonetheless they had an understanding. Wherever Al went Aaron was sure to be found.

Al also used Aaron as a foil to further enhance his reputation as a player. He did this by regularly belittling Aaron over his weight and inability to score. Aaron would reply with a torrent of invectives directed at Al, and then calm would ensue until the next outburst. Al tried to get Aaron onto the David Letterman show. In a twelve-page handwritten letter addressed to Letterman, Al described Aaron in the most graphic and unflattering terms. Al did not receive a reply.

Women were THE central feature of Al's life. He dedicated his life to meeting them. Indeed, his ability to meet women was uncanny, unsurpassed by none of his contemporaries and possibly unprecedented. He was constantly on the lookout to meet women. He met them everywhere – at work, in the street, on the beach, and on airplanes. But most of all he met women at single's functions. His preoccupation with single's functions was almost an obsession. The single's function was far and away Al's most productive source for meeting women, the reason being the very purpose of the function, which was to bring men and women together. In that respect the single's function provided a place where Al could meet women who wanted to meet men.

Al did everything he could to avoid paying admission to these functions. Prior to showing up, he would carefully calculate how he could sneak into the function. He also urged his friends to do the same. This was a transparent example of Al's corrupting influence on others. For Al, this thievery was not motivated by financial considerations. He could easily afford the price of admission. Rather, it was another way to show his friends that, unlike them, he was not afraid to take risks, In short, that he wasn't a loser.

After arriving at the function, Al would wait until the box office personnel were busy with other customers and then sneak in. Al never seemed to care about the implications of his behavior, neither for himself nor for the people running the function. To him, he gained immediate satisfaction knowing that he broke the rules. His friends saw what Al did and tried to copy him. Often they got caught. Luckily, the single's function operators simply asked them to pay.

Al also sneaked alcohol into these functions. Soon his friends were doing likewise. Bringing alcohol into a business establishment was (and still is) illegal and a business faced stiff fines and other penalties for permitting customers to consume alcohol not purchased on the premises. A business establishment risked losing its liquor license. Hence this was a far more serious offense. It placed the single's function itself at risk. Nevertheless, Al seemed oblivious to these considerations. Once again, this behavior had nothing to do with Al wanting or needing to save money. It was just another way for him to gain gratification at the expense of others knowing that he beat the system.

Over the years, Al met thousands of women. For him meeting women was more than just an avocation, it was a mission. A date with a woman was never a casual get together. Rather it was a serious encounter with a specific goal: to score a point. A date required that the woman coming over to Al's apartment. Once she arrived, Al would serve her alcohol. If she refused to drink, the date was over, but if she accepted, then he would try to consummate the encounter, that is, to score.

Every woman who came to Al's apartment, or otherwise agreed to meet him, did so voluntarily and of her own volition. Al never misled a woman as to his intentions nor did he ever force any woman to do anything she did not want to do. It is impossible to estimate the number of women who took up Al's invitation for a date, but the number was considerable, probably in the thousands. For Al, the more points he scored, the more he felt validated as a man. Scoring a point became a cause for celebration, and Al celebrated often. It must be remembered that when trying to score, Al did so without the benefit of a flashy job or pretensions of wealth. Indeed, when it came to spending money and displays of wealth, Al was frugal. He depended exclusively on cunning and willpower to engage a woman's attention and score the point. Al never dated women who were under-aged or had obvious physical or emotionally debilitating conditions.

Many of the women Al dated were Jewish. Also, many had heavy builds. Whether Al was attracted to fat women is unknown. What is known is that Al gravitated to women who he believed afforded him the best chance of scoring. That many happened to be Jewish and heavy seemed to be coincidental. Al's goal was to score with whomever he could. Race and ethnicity played no factor in his selection process of women to date.

Al believed that Jewish women had disdain for Jewish men. Hence, when interacting with a Jewish woman, Al played up his Irish ethnicity to let the woman know that he was not Jewish. Al believed that this strategy increased his chances of scoring. That Jewish men scored with non-Jewish had no impact on Al's

beliefs in this regard. On this point he was in complete denial. Al refused to accept the possibility that a non-Jewish woman could actually prefer a Jewish man over a non-Jewish man.

Al genuinely believed that when it came to women, Jewish men, with few exceptions, were losers. This included Jewish men who were Vietnam veterans, world travelers, athletes, and his academic and professional superiors. Indeed, on this subject Al's mind was fixed and no amount of facts to the contrary would cause him to change it. Al dismissed the example of the Israeli Jews as irrelevant because they were Israelis, not Americans. Yet, Al was not an anti-Semite. He possessed no hatred for Jewish people nor ever expressed or bore any ill-will toward them as a group. Although it is doubtful that Al ever attended a Jewish service, he had knowledge of Jewish religious ritual.

As for Al's own religious beliefs, all that is known is that he was Protestant. It is unknown whether he ever went to church or had any religious training. Al did not wear nor did he possess any religious ornaments nor did he ever celebrate any religious holidays. He was not affiliated with any religious group nor did he ever discuss spiritual matters. He never invoked deity. Indeed, he never denigrated the Jewish religion as a religion except insofar that it seemed to produce men who were losers.

Al's scorn for Jewish men was reinforced by the behavior of the Jewish men who gravitated around him. For instance, there were the twin-brothers Ned, a Vietnam veteran, and Mark Newton, a public school teacher, whose overt hostility toward women and acting out behavior, which included screaming, hollering,

bickering, temper tantrums and public drunkenness, genuinely amazed Al. Al could not get over their behavior and considered them buffoons. When Al later learned that both men were studying to become lawyers, he was incredulous and remained steadfast in his disbelief.

Then there was Melvin Taybor, who lived in Los Angeles. Mel, originally from Brooklyn and hoping to improve his dreary social life, had moved to Los Angeles. In Los Angeles he continued to fail with women. Al, accompanied by several other friends, visited Mel and stayed in his house. Mel, who was a US Air Force veteran, welcomed Al and his friends into his home. He was sincerely glad to be hosting them. While there, Al met and immediately scored with a woman, non-Jewish, with whom Mel had been trying to score for months. To make matters even more humiliating for Mel, Al scored with her in Mel's house and in Mel's bed. Whether Al took advantage of an opportunity to score or deliberately intended to embarrass Mel is unknown. Yet, Al scored, at Mel's expense.

Then there was Stevie Litwak. Stevie worked for the city of New York as a toll collector. He was an utter failure with women and the butt of numerous jokes and the target for merciless mockery from Al who did all he could to belittle the befuddled Stevie who resigned himself to talking the abuse. It was the price he paid to be with Al and meet women.

However, not all his targets for scorn were Jewish. One friend of Al's who knew him from childhood was Nicholas Zebudowski. Unlike the other men who gravitated to Al, Nick was not Jewish. Nevertheless, Al heaped ridicule on Nick. Nick was a high school graduate who was employed as a doorman. Al sneered at

Nick for being a doorman, and referred to Nick in the most uncomplimentary and racist terms, even though Nick was white. Yet Nick remained close to Al.

Although not as socially inept as Aaron, when it came to meeting women, Nick too was on the social margins, and therefore took Al's abuse in order to gain a social life.

The fact is that whoever associated with Al did so at a price, which was loss of dignity and self-worth. Each member of the group had to acknowledge that Al was his leader and the only winner in the group. Each could try to score, and could even succeed in scoring many times, but with the understanding that he had Al to thank for gaining the opportunity to rack up those points. This was not a written rule but it was the principle that governed the relationship between Al and the members of his group. In short, Al made sure to surround himself with sycophants, almost all of whom were Jewish. The fact that in most respects these men were Al's superior did not alter the relationship. It is not surprising that Al had such contempt for Jewish men.

Some believed that Al was a Lothario and that his behavior was selfish and even narcissistic, but others admired him and even sought to emulate him. Whatever the case, regarding his conduct with women, he was always honest as to his intentions, which was to score. He got his cue from the media which sensationalized such conduct, packaged it as exciting and deemed it worthy of attention, and Al craved excitement and attention. This is not to excuse his behavior or blame it on the media, but rather to place it in a broader cultural context. Fundamentally, Al was a person who was unduly influenced by

media-driven cultural forces which romanticized dysfunctional behavior, mocked traditional family values, glamorized social rootlessness, distorted concepts of masculinity, and demeaned and objectified women.

Al's highest one-day tally of scores was five. He accomplished this feat at a single's weekend clothing-optional function. All the pre-conditions necessary for success were present: a large concentration of women looking to meet men, access to alcohol, and a festive atmosphere. Al was in his element and took full advantage of the opportunities it presented. Demonstrating almost boundless energy, Al proved that he was truly the king of all scorers.

Although Al dedicated his life to scoring with women, he spurned prostitutes. To him, purchasing sex was a cop out, and he considered any man who used prostitutes to be the lowest and most pathetic form of loser. Al openly ridiculed men who used prostitutes and refused to consider any alternative opinions on the subject.

To Al, having sex with a prostitute was not a score. Anyone could buy sex. According to Al, for sex with a woman to count as a point, the man had to gain the woman's cooperation, not buy it. Scoring was a contest, and only the best and most skillful man could succeed. Al directed some of his most vitriolic condemnation to two members of his entourage who frequented prostitutes. First there was Ben Minor, a Korean War Army veteran who routinely went to Asia to have sex with whores and then would brag about it after he returned home. As far as Al was concerned, Ben was pathetic and a total loser.

The other was Lonnie Nickerson, who never scored with women and used prostitutes instead. Al heckled Lonnie, a combat veteran of the Vietnam War, mercilessly. That Lonnie served in Vietnam did not stop Al from lambasting Lonnie in the most graphic terms. (Al himself never served in the military, the reason for this unknown. He never discussed it nor did anyone ever raise the subject with him.) Nonetheless, Lonnie refused to tolerate the abuse and ended his relationship with Al. Afterwards Lonnie refused to talk about Al.

Nevertheless Al harbored genuine respect for three men, none of whom were members of his entourage. First, there was Abel Al-Amani. He was a rich Jewish businessman who was several years older than Al and owned several houses at Fire Island as well as an expensive condo in midtown Manhattan. He served as Al's mentor and role model. Then Paul O'Reilly, a train conductor for the Long Island Railroad who owned a large house at Fire Island and was immensely popular with women. Third, Danny Kaston, a man who Al knew from childhood. Abel and Paul eventually severed their respective friendships with Al. In both cases it was rumored that the relationships ended due to disputes involving money.

Al neither smoked cigarettes nor seriously abused drugs. However, he had a deep involvement with alcohol. His favorite drink was scotch, preferably Dewar's, straight with ice, poured into a ten or twelve ounce glass. He never drank during work and normally did not drink during the day. Al used alcohol as a prop to further improve his chances to meet and score with women. Some thought Al to be an alcoholic. However, except when actively engaged in trying to

meet women, he never demonstrated any dependence on alcohol. He could take it or leave it. It was only after he lost his city job that his consumption of alcohol got out of control.

His audacious lifestyle notwithstanding, Al was aware that he too was vulnerable. Al claimed that once when traveling on the subway a group of black men had chased him through the train. He also claimed that at a restaurant a man threw a pie in his face. Al avoided fisticuffs. He did not pick fights. Rough housing was not his style. If confronted with danger, Al would withdraw. He wanted to score, not fight.

Al had ambivalent feelings about African-Americans. Occasionally, when with his friends, he referred to blacks in crude and disparaging terms. Yet, he also admired them. He enjoyed disco music performed by black entertainers and seemed to genuinely respect black men for their brazenness and aggressiveness, as long as it was not directed at him. He never refused the opportunity to score with a woman just because she was black. However, no one in his entourage of followers was black.

Al never complained about crime or other social issues. He expressed no opinions pro or con about the national defense, foreign policy, social welfare, educational, taxes, finances, the military or any other issues. It's not that he was oblivious to these issues because he was not. He just never made them topics for conversation. Al had a cynical attitude toward politics but he never clarified his thoughts on the subject, nor did anyone ever ask him to do so. Al concentrated on more immediate and personal concerns.

One news item that did keep Al's attention was the Son of Sam story. Al followed that story closely. He was intrigued by two facets of the story. First, it involved a man who stalked and killed women. Second, the perpetrator was Jewish. These two facts, the man's inability to score and his ethnicity, served to further reinforce Al's disdain for Jewish men.

He rarely if ever publicly acted out. However, there were notable exceptions. First, he urinated in public in Times Square. The police caught him and issued him a summons. Second, he totally destroyed a room at a resort hotel. During a single's weekend at a major hotel (which since then has been demolished), Al was doing poorly with the women. He was repeatedly striking out with them. This exacerbated his drinking. In a fit of drunken rage, he trashed the room. Security was notified. The room was registered under a phony name; six men, including Al were staying in the room. Two of the men managed to leave the hotel grounds and thus avoid being apprehended while Al and the other three were detained by hotel security. Hotel security contacted the police who arrested the four of them. They spent one and half days in jail waiting to go before a judge. The court ordered them released on bail. After several months and several appearances in court, the court found them guilty of disorderly conduct and ordered restitution. Third, during a visit to California, he took a car, not his own, without permission and drove to a local airport where he abandoned the car and took a flight back to New York, leaving his companions behind.

For a time, Al was popular. Not all of his notoriety was positive. A major New York City daily published a feature article about Al. According to the article,

Al went throughout the city stalking women at parties. The story was based on rumors and innuendo. The newspaper never interviewed Al and he was never arrested or investigated by the police. Al never stalked women. It was neither his style nor inclination.

Yet, despite his narcissistic-like behavior, Al was capable of acts of kindness and generosity. He knew exactly what to say when someone was feeling down and was willing to help people. For instance, he helped a friend, a retired boxer with brain damage, to apply for and obtain Supplemental Security Income. He also organized softball games and even gave away World Series tickets. Nevertheless, Al shunned the label “nice guy,” a term which to him meant loser. To Al, a loser was chump and a fool and most of all a man who could not score, thus undeserving of respect. Yet, beneath all of his self-centered posturing there still existed inside him a kernel of compassion. Al was not completely depraved.

A resident of Brooklyn Heights, living in an area known for its many bars, it was not part of Al’s routine to frequent bars. He was not a barfly. In fact, Al deplored the idea of having to pay for drinks. The only time he went to a bar was when he was with company. His serious drinking started when trying to meet women or score. When he drank, he drank heavily and quickly. A one or two shot drink did not suffice. For Al, drinking was not a means to get drunk. Rather, it was a tool with which to score a point and thereby confirm his manhood. When not actively engaged in trying to meet women, Al would forego booze.

Ironically, although a heavy alcohol user, Al maintained a membership at a local health club which he frequented daily. This was where he stayed during his

three-hour lunches. It was his daytime hang out. At the club he could be found in the sauna reading a newspaper and talking with staff and friends. He also used the club as a place where he could “sweat out” the alcohol from the previous evening’s activities.

At the club, Al was something of a prima donna. Unlike the clubs of today, this health club was a small family operated business. It met Al’s needs perfectly. The club operators knew Al and liked him. Like his city job, the health club served as a prop that provided structure to Al’s life. When the health club closed, Al was emotionally devastated. Some say that Al took the loss of his health club harder than the loss of his job.

It was also around the same time that the arthritis in his right hip started worsening. Soon Al was walking with a pronounced limp. Al blamed this condition on his consumption of alcohol. Eventually he underwent a right hip replacement. After the surgery, Al continued to walk with a limp. He coped with it as best he could, without complaint, but it significantly impaired his mobility. While convalescing in the hospital after the surgery, Al kept a written record of those persons who visited him. Apparently, he received few visitors. That bothered Al.

Years before Al had undergone another surgical procedure. During a stopover in Chicago while flying to Los Angeles, a large epidermal cyst under his left arm flared up. In the middle of snow storm Al, accompanied by a friend, went to a local hospital where the cyst was lanced and bandaged. Al left the hospital without paying the bill. It is unknown whether Al had any other maladies. Indeed,

it is unknown whether he went for regularly scheduled physical examinations. Al never complained about any nagging medical problems. Given Al's lifestyle, he probably was at risk of developing a number of conditions but apparently that was no concern to Al whose primary goal in life was to score.

After Al lost his city job, he took in two roommates into his apartment. He did this to supplement his income. This effectively brought an end to his practice of inviting women to his apartment. It also meant that for all practical purposes his days as a scorer and player were over. Not that he didn't continue to try to meet women, but for him an era in his life had come to an end. He also stopped going to Fire Island. Al's health was deteriorating and he was approaching middle age.

Divested of his job, health club and women, his social life now in shambles and his health deteriorating, for Al life became a struggle. The only prop still available to him was alcohol. It was rumored that Al sought help to curb his drinking. However, there is no record that he ever actually stopped drinking for any appreciable length of time or attended a substance abuse program. His drinking habits also changed. He switched from scotch to vodka, ostensibly because the latter was cheaper. Whether he drank vodka straight or diluted is unknown.

Nonetheless, regardless of which brand of alcohol he consumed or how he drank it, his consumption of alcohol continued unabated. No one came forward to assist Al in his time of crisis, nor is there any record that he asked anyone for help. He had a girlfriend with whom he stayed from time to time, but all she could provide was moral support, and for Al that was not enough.

On July 24, 1993 Al died. He was 46 years old. His death was reported in the news. For Al, death happened suddenly. He collapsed on the street, in the middle of day, near where he lived. His death was witnessed by several passers-by.

People were shocked by the news of Al's passing and many people seemed to miss him. At least one-hundred people, including people with whom Al had been estranged and some women, attended his funeral, and a large contingent his burial. The identity of the person who arranged Al's funeral is unknown. For reasons unknown, it was decided to inter Al with his parents. Whether this was something Al had wished is unknown. There is no record that Al left a last will and testament. Nor was the size of his estate known. Due to the nature of Al's death, the civil authorities performed an autopsy, the findings of which were not disclosed. Thus, the cause of Al's death remain shrouded in some secrecy. Some have speculated that he had total system failure secondary to alcohol abuse. At the wake, one the visitors characterized Al as the "happiest drunk he ever knew." In any event, Al received a decent burial.

At the time of his death, Al had no close living relatives. His mother had died in 1976. After she died, Al moved into her apartment where he remained until his death. His last known living relative was an aunt who had died several years earlier. At the time of her death, Al claimed that he went to her apartment where he found forty-thousand dollars in cash. The veracity of this story was never confirmed. It was also rumored that he had contact with other distant relatives, but these rumors also were unconfirmed. There is no record of Al ever participating in any family gatherings, such as during holidays or even at a funeral, nor is there any record

of him ever traveling elsewhere to get together with relatives. Thus, Al had no extended family; no known relatives who kept in contact with him. In that respect Al was truly alone. However, he never complained about it or even discussed it. Family connections just did not seem to be important to Al.

For Al, his friends were his family. In that respect, he had a large family. Yet even that was qualified. No matter how many single's functions he attended or how many women he met, he never became the center of anyone's life. All his friends, losers and otherwise, and the women he met and scored with moved on. His apartment was cleaned out, his belongings removed, and all physical evidence of his existence erased. The identity of the person or persons who performed these tasks is unknown to this writer.

According to Al's girlfriend, Lana, prior to his death she and Al had argued. She wanted to go to Mexico while he wanted to go to Las Vegas. After his death, she moved on. No one knows what became of her. As for the members of Al's entourage, they went their separate ways. Whatever friendships they had with each other while Al was alive dissolved. The only thing they had in common with each other was Al.

Except for archival records, all evidence of Al's life is gone. He left no legacy except that which is in the minds of those who may still remember him. It is unknown whether anyone beside this writer has visited Al's grave. It is unknown whether anyone even gives Al a second thought.

Now, Al is at rest with his parents. Their common grave is well maintained and undisturbed. It is fitting that he is there with them. They are his family. For as they raised and nurtured Al in life, so may they now watch over him and be with him for all eternity.

