

STRAIGHT

NEWSLETTER from Cincinnati

MAY 1985

SPREADING STRAIGHT'S MESSAGE

On April 23rd and 24th, Mr. Rushing accompanied Robin P., a 7-Stepper, to Washington D.C. Robin and Mr. Rushing met with Senators Glenn and Metzenbaum, and enjoyed a spectacular luncheon at the White House. They ate off the First Lady's State China. Mr. Rushing sat next to the Ambassador from Canada and chatted with Dr. Carlton Turner. Robin spoke to the assembled First Ladies from around the world at Mrs. Reagan's invitation. Robin's talk was the highlight of the conference.

Also, Straight's Executive Staff, Community Service Directors and Senior Staff attended a Drug Abuse seminar held at the Omni Netherland Hilton in Cincinnati. This week, they will be participating in the Conference on Substance Abuse (COSA) held in Cincinnati.

Finally, over 70 parents and 20 phasers participated in Healthworks held at many shopping malls in the Tri-State area. Thanks to everyone who helped.

GARAGE SALE CHALLENGE

The National Guard Armory is big. Can we fill it up? Can we make this 1985 Great Straight Garage Sale the biggest and best ever?

YES!

So, bring the items you no longer use to the trailer parked in the back parking lot. Parents will be there before each Open Meeting to receive your things. No item is too large or too small to donate. Tell your friends and relatives to save their things for you, too. These donations are tax deductible and receipts are printed for this purpose.

If you have a large item you would like picked up, please call Ken C. at 793-4266.

Many hands are needed to work to get the garage sale ready and to help work at the sale. Please sign up to help.

Remember the date and place:

Saturday, May 25 9 - 5

Sunday, May 26 10 - 5

at the National Guard Armory
4100 Reading Road
Cincinnati

NFL CHOOSES STRAIGHT

Each year the NFL Alumni Association holds a celebrity golf tournament in Cincinnati with the proceeds going to a charity of their choosing. This year, the Association has selected Straight. The golf tournament and banquet will be held in mid-July. Parents will be called on to assist in making this event a success. Please have your "yes" ready when you are called. If we do our part on this event, Straight may become the recipient of the funds this charity golf outing raises every year. This could mean as much as \$50,000, or more, a year for the program.

CHAIN OF COMMAND

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Director

Jerry Rushing

Associate Director

William Glick

Senior Program Counselors

Winifred (Wini) Boyd

Jerry Delaney

Executive Staff Trainee

Peggy Rulli

Staff

Group Staff Supervisor

Eileen F. [redacted]

Senior Staff

Brian L. [redacted]

Todd B. [redacted]

Junior Staff

Theresa R. [redacted]

Amie V. [redacted]

Steve S. [redacted]

Greg C. [redacted]

Jenni B. [redacted]

Tom A. [redacted]

Maren J. [redacted]

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Steve K. [redacted]

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Bookkeeper

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Intake Coordinator

Joyce S. [redacted]

Assistant Intake Coordinator

Connie E. [redacted]

Community Service Directors

Betty Rushing

Karmen L. [redacted]

Secretary

Linda S. [redacted]

Receptionists

Peg K. [redacted]

Barb S. [redacted]

Administrative Coordinator

Pat W. [redacted]

Newsletter

Editor: Marty C. 891-7429

Assoc. Ed.: Betsy S. 561-9430

CHECK THE RAFFLE TABLE

There is a variety of new reading material for sale at the raffle table: Daily Meditation books, Inspirational Pamphlets, Introduction to AA for Young People, a book listing drugs to be avoided by a chemically dependent person.

NEW MOTEL RATES

The Days Inn on I-42 is raising their rates to \$48 a night. The Ramada Inn off I-275, Exit 65 (Beechmont-Amelia Exit) is offering a rate of \$28 per night, double occupancy which includes a Continental breakfast. This offer is available through May 27th.

"A mother is not a person to lean on, but a person to make leaning unnecessary."
Dorothy Canfield Fisher

WORDS FOR "STRAIGHT IS IT"

Straight is it,
The freest place we've ever found
Straight is it,
The most successful place around
Straight is it,
The freest place we've ever found.
Straight is it...
Straight is IT!

WORDS FOR "HAPPINESS RUNS"

Happiness runs in a circular motion,
Love is a little boat upon the sea.
Everybody is a part of everything anyway,
You can be happy if you let yourself be.
La la la la, etc.

BOOSTER CLUB EARNINGS

The total amount of money collected by the Booster Club in March was \$1,427.80 and in April, \$1,690.95.

ONE OF A KIND

You arrived, bringing with you, as does every child, the message that I was not yet discouraged of man. Two cells, now united in a miracle. Two cells, each containing twenty-three chromosomes and within each chromosome hundreds of genes, which would govern every characteristic about you, from the color of your eyes to the charm of your manner to the size of your brain.

With all the combinations at my command, beginning with that single sperm from your father's four hundred million, through the hundreds of genes in each of the chromosomes from your mother and father, I could have created three hundred thousand billion humans, each different from the other.

But who did I bring forth?

You! One of a kind. Rarest of the rare. A priceless treasure, possessed of qualities in mind and speech and movement and appearance and actions as no other who lived, lives, or shall live.

Why have you valued yourself in pennies when you are worth a king's ransom?

Why did you listen to those who demeaned you....and far worse, why did you believe them?

submitted by John C.

BASIS FOR THE "NO TALKING BEHIND BACKS" RULE

When Straight, Inc. was founded in St. Petersburg, we discovered very quickly from the kids that the druggie world is completely untrustworthy. If someone tells another druggie about a fear or hurt or secret, it will be spread all over the school, the street, or town by the next day. And it will have been painted much worse than it was to begin with. Druggies are constantly backbiting and lying to each other. The first thing a druggie learns is not to trust anyone out there. We knew that for healing to take place, the kids were going to have to reverse that belief and trust each other and staff and talk about their pain, shame and embarrassment along with their dreams and successes. So we came up with the "No Talking Behind Backs" rule, and it worked. Slowly, the kid begins to trust as he/she realizes the group isn't even allowed to mention his/her name except in highly specific instances. As he/she sees this rule being taken seriously by the group he/she begins to open up and gradually heals. It's one of the most important rules in the program. (from the Straight-Atlanta Newsletter) COMING IN THE JUNE ISSUE: NO TALKING BEHIND BACKS: WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

"We must remember that no one person can make another person whole or entire, or entirely happy forever after. We must each find our own personal basis for completeness. Once we realize this, we can foster a relationship that is based not on unrealistic expectations that my never be fulfilled, but on the things that really matter....trust and honesty, openness and love."

Peter A. McWilliams

"WORKING MY PROGRAM" - WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

Often the phrase "work your program" is said. Parents say it over the microphone, "I'm working my program." Phasers are confronted to "...apply your program." It's Straight lingo. What does it mean? Here are several parents' interpretations of the jargon:

Being consistent and totally honest all the time. If anything bothers me, to express my feelings right then rather than to hold it in. Also, having an open mind to whatever occurs.

Bonnie W.

Being aware and conscious of the fact I'm in a program all the time. Not only practicing the words, but setting an example in action; demonstrating belief in and support of the program and what it means to be Straight. Being aware of the feelings of others, having compassion and empathy for them. And to live what's being taught.

Nick P.

If a problem or concern arises, I go through the steps to try to solve it and use the Serenity Prayer when I feel the need.

Linda U.

Turning everything over to Straight and letting them handle it. Knowing there is help for my son. Where we are now in our lives we have some sanity - it's the first step, admitting I'm powerless over what's happened to us. What I've gotten out of the program itself is learning to let go of my son and let him do it; not controlling, and accepting the good that's happened to us.

Carol B.

Knowing how to use and apply the 7 steps, 5 criteria, 3 signs, and Serenity Prayer to any situation that comes up during the day to handle feelings and make a decision.

Larry S.

I do this for myself; not for the kids. Mentally and physically I take in and apply what I learn here at Straight and use the steps daily. It makes a change in the way I see things in relating to others and I feel better about myself.

Ken N.

I'm doing my part, holding up my end by contributing and making necessary changes as I work the steps.

Terry R.

It means trying to apply the steps; coping by using the Serenity Prayer, and working my way through a problem by using the steps.

Lois R.

To do good for yourself, work for yourself - and using the Serenity Prayer. Bridget D.

I always use the 3 signs first. This always leads into the Serenity Prayer and then I go through the other steps and guidelines and use them.

Mary M.

Think about what "working my program" means to you.

by Betsy S.

7-Step News

7-STEP PROFILE - DAVID A [REDACTED]

David A [REDACTED], a nineteen year old freshman at the University of Cincinnati, has been 7-Stepped for nearly two years. He used drugs for a little under three years and his program was, "two years, one month, and twenty-three days long."

Besides going to college full time, David works at a men's clothing store. While he is not working or studying, he enjoys body building and jogging.

David said one change he has made since 7-Stepping is that he realizes he is much stronger than he thought. "When I first 7-Stepped I thought, oh no....am I going to make it? Now I see how far I've come and say, WOW. I think of the day to day effort I put into keeping myself straight. If I don't deal with it like that, I can kiss it all goodbye."

Another change David notices is that he no longer questions rules and restrictions such as why he should study more, keep his body fit, talk to his parents, etc. He does these things independent of anyone else. "I'm making these rules and restrictions my own because I want them for me." For example, recently David had a problem concerning dating. Nobody told him he needed to go talk it over with his parents, he just knew inside that was what he wanted and needed to do. "It wouldn't feel right doing it any other way."

David's main support group is his parents and friends. "I do go to the building once a month or so - I feel good when I go to Straight. There's a lively, positive atmosphere and I can help people out."

Currently, David is undecided as to his major area of study so one of his goals for the future is to decide on a major by next year. He plans to graduate from college.

What advice would David give a new 7-Stepper? "Take things slowly. There's no denying you'll make changes in your beliefs and how you handle things. But make the changes because it feels good for you, not because other 7-Steppers think it's cool, or it looks good to you at the time, or it's the rebellious thing to do. That won't keep you straight. And one last thing....talk."

NEW 7-STEPPERS

The announcement of six new 7-Steppers was celebrated at the April 26th Open Meeting: Stephanie H., Madonna K., Loren R., Matt P., Kevin S., and Jeff O. Congratulations to these new 7-Steppers and their families.

7-STEP CONVENTION

Have you sent in your reservation yet? "Step Alive '85," the 7-Step National Convention will be held in Cincinnati on June 28, 29, and 30th. Friday registration will take place at the Marriott Inn, followed by a pool party. Saturday a party will be held (with live entertainment) on board the boat "Becky Thatcher." A dinner dance at the Marriott will follow. Sunday's activities will be held at the Straight building beginning with a non-denominational worship service, with activities ending at 12:30 P.M. Send in your reservations now.

AN INTERVIEW WITH BROTHER CHARLIE

To talk to Brother Charles Broussard for an hour is to feel as if you have known him your whole life. He is a forthright, energetic and obviously caring man with the "gift of gab" laced with a grand sense of humor.

Since early this year, Brother Charlie is a familiar face at Straight. Every Friday he meets with the sibling group. "I love them," he says of "his" kids. "They need care and concern just like the kids in group and the parents. And I need to grow - the kids are helping me."

Brother Charlie's interest in Straight began last summer when he attended a professional luncheon. During the question and answer period, another visitor was skeptical about the way the kids in group were motivating. Brother Charlie, in his special open, honest manner, spoke out to say, "If the kids need to motivate to make it work, I say great." He realized that Straight is a program that works and "I wanted to be supportive of what goes on at Straight." Brother Charlie wanted to do some community volunteer work in conjunction with earning his Masters in Education in Agency and Community Counseling at Xavier. After several discussions with Betty Rushing about how he could help at Straight, he was invited to go through the parent raps. "I thought I would go observe," laughs Brother Charlie. "I soon found out I was part of those raps. Going through the MI raps was a neat experience, particularly when the phasers went over the MIs. One phaser especially helped me by challenging me to look at my relationship with God. At first I thought....well! But I realized I did need to work on letting go - the phaser was right."

After completing the MI raps, Brother Charlie attended several parent raps and sibling raps. He decided he could do the most good and grow the most himself by working with the siblings. "I liked what was going on; it just needed polishing." So, he began to meet with the sibling group on Friday nights. As a group, the siblings would like to be more unified and to earn the respect they deserve. "I have expectations of the kids. They are to learn their steps, we have an attendance book and a list of rules." In return, Brother Charlie provides love and leadership - he feels that, especially if a sibling is mandatory, there needs to be something important for that sibling to attend. "We have that now, and I hope to expand on the program." Brother Charlie feels frustrated because he is not able to be at the Monday and Saturday raps due to his schedule. But in a few weeks he hopes to have even more time to give to the sibling group. "I'd like to see guy/girl raps; also a program where we could really get into the meaning and application of each of the seven steps. I really like the "big brother" idea, too. Maybe an upper phaser talking to a new sibling to show him or her how it can be to have a straight brother or sister. I'd also like to see the siblings help out at the building - it's their building, too. I was very proud of the way the kids got behind the raffle ticket sales. They did a great job."

Brother Charlie grew up in Tennessee and attended college at the University of Tennessee where he earned his Doctor of Pharmacy in 1974. He then attended the University of Dayton studying theology and education until 1979. In the summer of 1983 he attended Seattle University's Alcohol Studies program and the following summer studied Community Intervention at St. Thomas College in St. Paul, Minnesota. He has worked as an assistant counselor at the Regional Alcoholism Treatment Center in Dayton and for the past five years he has worked in the area of Alcohol/Drug education. Presently, Brother Charlie - a member of Society of Mary, Marianist - teaches at Moeller High School. As he puts it, "I have fun with Biology." He is also Moeller's Alcohol/Drug Education Program Coordinator, and as such meets with young men and their families to refer them for help to programs such as Straight, AA, NA, St. Elizabeths, Kids Helping Kids, and outpatient counselors. "It's a lot of work," Brother Charlie says, "But kids are getting better - I can see it."

BROTHER CHARLIE, con't.

Brother Charlie feels he is growing by being part of the Straight family. "I like being at Straight. There is a comfortable uncomfortableness; I feel at home, but also like I better be me. My title is not important," Brother Charlie says. "There is a great equality that happens at Straight. There are no doctors, lawyers, Brothers. I love it when I'm just "Dad." I feel like a Dad. I need the program and the challenges it offers. Straight is like a person - it has its strengths and weaknesses. I wish it weren't so demanding on families, for example, but because it is so demanding, it works."

And it works because of dedicated people like Brother Charlie.

FOR RENT

Approximately 20 miles from Straight, large ranch home, three large bedrooms, living room and dining room combination, paneled den, kitchen with electric range, dishwasher, disposal, wall to wall carpeting and draperies/window treatment throughout house; basement with extra bedroom. Three full baths, extra large 2 car garage with electric eye. House has central air conditioning, Aprilaire humidifier, etc. Owners are Straight parents. Call 513-721-5700 (Bus.) or 513-561-8380 (Res.)

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MAY 1985

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>APRIL 1985</p> <p>S M T W T F S</p> <p>1 2 3 4 5 6</p> <p>7 8 9 10 11 12 13</p> <p>14 15 16 17 18 19 20</p> <p>21 22 23 24 25 26 27</p> <p>28 29 30</p>	<p>JUNE 1985</p> <p>S M T W T F S</p> <p>1</p> <p>2 3 4 5 6 7 8</p> <p>9 10 11 12 13 14 15</p> <p>16 17 18 19 20 21 22</p> <p>23 24 25 26 27 28 29</p> <p>30</p>		1	2	3	<p>RAPS: 4</p> <p>Siblings 10 AM</p> <p>7-Steppers 7PM</p> <p>7-Step Parents Only - 7 PM</p>
5	<p>6</p> <p>OPEN MEETING</p> <p>6:30 PM</p> <p>MAY DAY HOLIDAY (U.K.)</p>	<p>7</p> <p>RAP:</p> <p>7-Steppers 6:00 PM</p>	8	9	<p>10</p> <p>OPEN MEETING</p> <p>6:30 PM</p>	<p>RAPS: 11</p> <p>Siblings 10 AM</p> <p>7-Steppers 7:00 PM</p>
<p>12</p> <p>MOTHER'S DAY</p>	<p>13</p> <p>OPEN MEETING</p> <p>6:30 PM</p>	<p>14</p> <p>RAP:</p> <p>7-Steppers 6:00 PM</p>	15	<p>16</p> <p>RAP:</p> <p>5th Phasers & Parents 6:15 PM</p>	<p>17</p> <p>OPEN MEETING</p> <p>6:30 PM</p>	<p>RAPS: 18</p> <p>Siblings 10AM</p> <p>7-Steppers & Parents - 7PM</p> <p>Boosters Mtg. 10:15 AM</p> <p>ARMED FORCES DAY</p>
19	<p>20</p> <p>OPEN MEETING</p> <p>6:30 PM</p> <p>VICTORIA DAY (Canada)</p>	<p>21</p> <p>RAP:</p> <p>7-Steppers 6:00 PM</p>	22	<p>23</p> <p>RAP:</p> <p>4th Phasers & Parents 6:15 PM</p>	<p>24</p> <p>OPEN MEETING</p> <p>6:30 PM</p>	<p>RAPS: 25</p> <p>Siblings 10AM</p> <p>7-Steppers 7PM</p>
26	<p>27</p> <p>OPEN MEETING</p> <p>6:30 PM</p> <p>MEMORIAL DAY</p> <p>SPRING HOLIDAY (U.K. not Scotland)</p>	28	29	<p>30</p> <p>Newsletter Deadline</p>	<p>31</p> <p>OPEN MEETING</p> <p>6:30 PM</p>	