



February 1983
Parents Newsletter

STRAIGHT, INC.
IS A

NON-PROFIT FAMILY-ORIENTED DRUG REHABILITATION

PROGRAM FOR THE YOUTHFUL DRUG ABUSER

Straighttalk

MEET MEL RIDDILE

"I was born in a small steel mill and coal mining town in western Pennsylvania, near Pittsburgh. I had one brother and one sister, both younger than myself. My father was an auto mechanic, my mother was a housewife. Growing up I was a good student in school—honor society, all four years of high school. I was a good athlete; captain of the basketball, football and baseball teams, both my Junior and Senior year. I was a typical family hero because while all this was going on, my father had become an alcoholic and was losing jobs. My mother had to go to work to support the family and I did everything I could to avoid going home."

"My brother went to college—on a basketball scholarship—and graduated. I went to college on a football scholarship. My family couldn't afford to have either one of us go to college, so that was the only route that we really had to get a college education. My brother is currently living in Alexandria; he works as a fireman. My sister went to nursing school in Ohio—lives in Ohio—and is currently employed as a nurse. My wife, Dr. Marianne Riddile, is a teacher in Fairfax County. We have a 5 month old daughter, Meredith.

(Continued on Page 4)

Straight Talk on the Air With Bill Burns Hosting

Tune in Tuesday evening to FM 91.9, WGTS, at 6:30 to hear an excellent hour long discussion and call-in show on chemical dependency. I flicked on the radio as I left the building one Tuesday and guess what I heard—Straight talk—from Bill and parents and kids. I was really impressed with the program.

Bill recently encouraged parents to call in and share. We all are experts on our own experience, so let's share our experience, strength and hope with others. Tune in to Bill Burns & Company.

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ANDY LYLE
BOB McINTYRE
TRISH McINTYRE
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17 T	18 F	19 S	20 S	21 M	22 T	23 W	24 T	25 F	26 S	27 S	28 M
	O.M.	Sib.Rap	AA 5th Phase Rap	O.M.				O.M.	Sib.Rap	AA 4th Phase Rap	O.M.
	Int.AA- AAnon	7 Step			7 Step			Int.AA- AAnon	7 Step		

Booster Club: 7:30-9:00 p.m. each first Tuesday off lobby, open to all parents. (Board meets 7:30-9:00, unless otherwise noted.)

AA - Alcoholics Anonymous Closed Meetings: 2:00 p.m. Sundays in conference room off lobby.

Int. AA-AAnon - Introductory Meetings for AA and AAnon: each Friday following Open Meeting, in Conference Room off lobby.

Straight

INC. P. O. Box 792, Springfield, Virginia 22150 Phone (703) 642-1980
DR. NEWTON MILLER, Clinical Director

MR. WILLIAM OLIVER, Executive Director

Chain of Command in Greater Washington

Program Director DR. MEL RIDDILE

Program Coordinators MR. RICK TOYE, MS. DEBORAH TYCHEN

Group Staff Supervisor MS. JESSICA HALL

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NEWS FROM STRAIGHT, NATIONAL

Everybody knows that Straight, Inc. is growing by leaps and bounds. One of the problems created by this growth is the constant need for new Executive Staff. We need them to train both for new programs and existing ones. Once in a while we meet people we think would really make good staff members. Straight would like to know about those people. Perhaps they would not fit in as well as we think, because as parents we may not have a complete understanding of what it takes to be a staff member here—but it is worth a try.

If you know someone you think could do the job—and love it—talk with them. Tell them about the program; and if they are interested, tell them to send a resume to Laura G. Morgan, Director of Personnel, Straight, National, P. O. Box 40052, St. Petersburg, Florida 33743.

Welcome to William Oliver, our new national Executive Director! Local Straight parents were happy to meet him in person at a recent meeting. A native of Atlanta, Georgia, Mr. Oliver was Senior Vice President of Computer Management, Inc., just prior to accepting his position with Straight. Mr. Oliver is not new to Straight; the Atlanta newsletter reports that he has a daughter on Junior Staff of the Atlanta program.

DENNIS LITCHFIELD

Certified Public Accountant

INCOME TAX PLANNING and PREPARATION

(Initial Visit - 15 min. - No Charge)

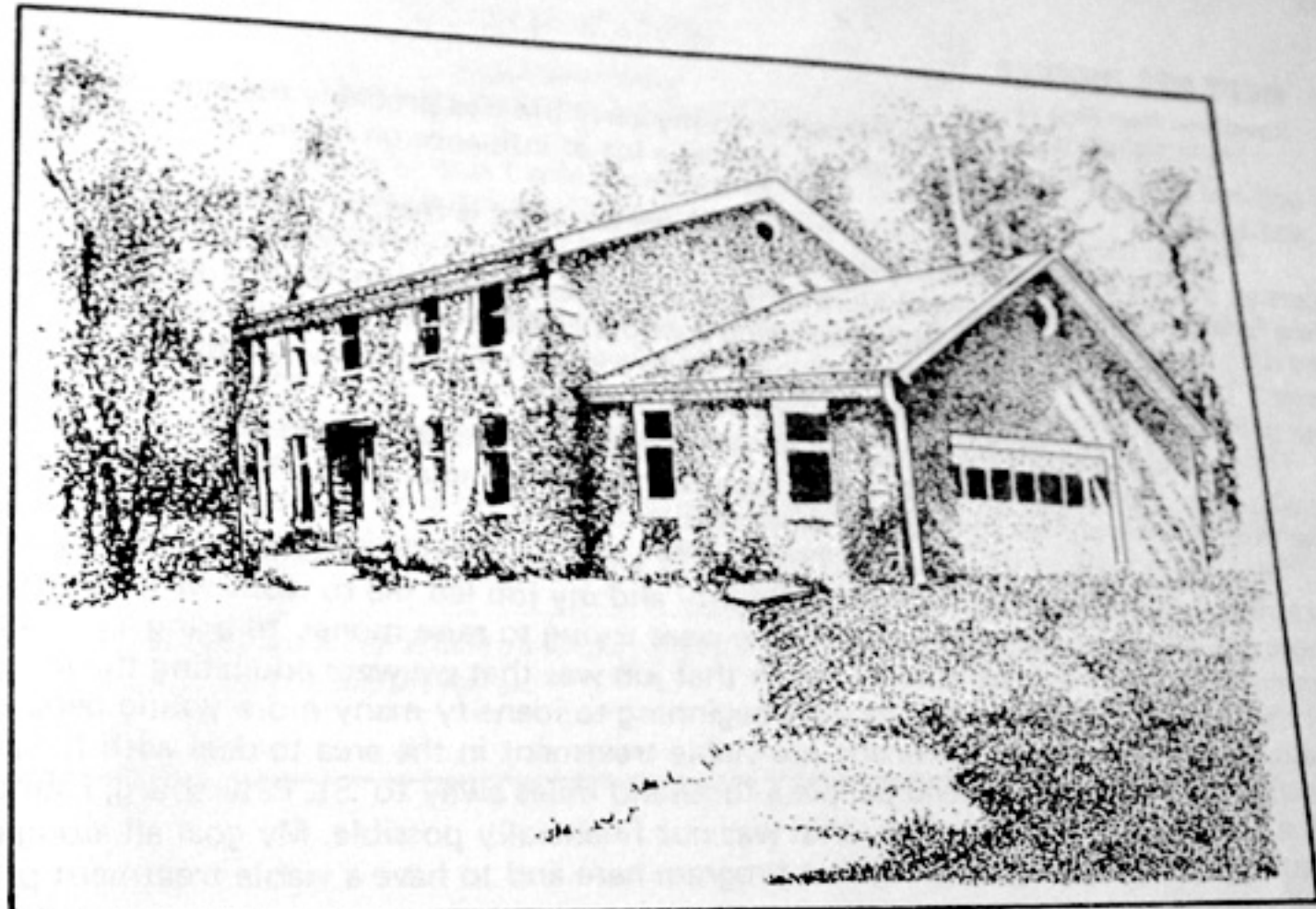
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YOUR HELP IS NEEDED TO MAKE THIS A SUCCESS FOR OUR KIDS.

PITCH IN . . .

SELL A TICKET



STRAIGHT
A Direction for Youth

Proceeds from all donations are to the exclusive benefit of STRAIGHT, INC., a charitable organization registered to do business in the State of Maryland. STRAIGHT is a drug-free, family oriented, rehabilitation program for youths.

MEET MEL RIDDLE

(Continued from Page 1)

"I think the most influential person in my early life was probably the man who was my foot ball and baseball coach in high school. He had a lot of influence on me in terms of setting goals and achieving.

"I guess the thing that's really motivated me the most is that, as a child, as a co-dependent person, as a hero in a chemically dependent family, I've seen first hand what chemical use can do to a family. I guess my desire to work with families, parents and kids and to do something about the drug problem which is really devastating a whole generation of kids, started with that experience. I really would like to do everything I could to help people deal with the pain—to avoid further pain that chemical dependency brings along with it.

"In terms of my leisure time, I enjoy water sports—water skiing and I have a jet ski which I use whenever I get a chance—didn't get much chance last summer in St. Petersburg. I hope to have some time off this winter to do some snow skiing.

"How did I happen to come to STRAIGHT? I was working as County Coordinator of Substance Abuse and Prevention for Fairfax County and my job led me to work with parents and one of those groups was the Straight parents who were trying to raise money to bring a program to the community. One of the frustrations I had in that job was that we were educating the community about the signs of drug abuse and we were beginning to identify many more young people. The problem was that we had no treatment—no viable treatment in the area to deal with the problem, so the only alternative was to send people a thousand miles away to St. Petersburg, Florida, and for some families—for many families—that was not financially possible. My goal all along was to work with the parents to try to bring that program here and to have a viable treatment program for young people.

"I'd been interviewed on television a couple of times about St. Pete, and of course I was supportive, but I never really thought about working for STRAIGHT until May of last year when I was doing consultant work for the Department of Education in Sarasota, Florida. I was invited to STRAIGHT, stayed over Memorial Day weekend and was very impressed by what I saw. I was impressed particularly with the families and what was going on. I knew right then that that was where I wanted to be. It was a difficult decision leaving the security of the school system, but I had come to realize that the only security one has is in oneself—in your own ability to produce. I really wanted to work for STRAIGHT and I needed to, in terms of my own personal growth, because I felt like I was not growing, or had stopped growing in my previous job.

"A couple of goals? What I'd like to do is work with parents—Straight parents—to have STRAIGHT recognized as the state of the art in adolescent drug treatment—particularly in this area. We've gotten off to a mixed start and I feel like within the next year or two we can go a long way to educate the community and to really raise the credibility of this program. Also, I'd like to attend one of the Saron Wegscheider's family reconstruction workshops within the next year."

Resume Highlights

Education: Doctor of Education, Vanderbilt University, 1980.

Master of Education, George Mason University, 1976.

Bachelor of Arts, University of North Carolina, 1972.

Employment: 1980-82. Coordinator of Substance Abuse Prevention, Fairfax County Public Schools.

1981. Executive Director, Northern Virginia Action Coalition.

1981. Consultant, U.S. Dept. of Education Region IV Alcohol and Drug Abuse Education Program.

1977-80. Administrator/Counselor, Annandale High School

1974-77. Administrator, R. E. Lee High School, Springfield, Va.

STEP ONE

by Sharon Hickok

My understanding of my first step, and how I apply it, has changed drastically since I came into the program.

At first I reminded myself daily that I was powerless over my druggie son. Remembering back, I do not think my first step had any more significance to me than that. I am not even sure how much I really believed that because I had been powerful enough to get him to STRAIGHT.

Today I apply my first step every time I get the urge to change other people. In my past, I wanted everyone around me to make changes and see things my way. Sometimes I still do. I now realize that I am powerless over everyone—especially the people closest to me, the people I love. I realize it is insane for me to expect them to always see things my way, and for me to develop resentful feelings when they don't. When I get frustrated, I need to make changes in myself, not expect them to change.

It has taken me a very long time in this program to "understand" that I am powerless over everyone, and not just my druggie son, and that I need a power greater than myself to restore me to sanity **every day**.

NEXT MONTH: Check this page for an article on Step 2. If you would like to share your understanding of Step 2 with other parents, please contact the editor.

Aldie, Virginia



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ELIZABETH DUFFIELD

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CLOSED MONDAY

AA, Al-Anon Meet Every Week

Every Friday evening after Open Meeting, an Introduction to AA and Al-Anon is offered. Each Sunday at 2:00 p.m., a regular closed meeting of AA takes place in the conference room off the lobby.

The Friday meetings are for anyone who would like to know more about AA or Al-Anon for themselves or others. Out-of-town parents might be especially interested in knowing more about AA, Al-Anon and Alateen when their child seven-steps and might not have a local meeting of the Seven Step Society available.

AA and Al-Anon meet as a separate function from STRAIGHT, organized by parents to help families. STRAIGHT, Inc. allows the use of its facilities for this purpose.

Advertisers Welcome

Members of STRAIGHT, Inc. may be associated with a business or profession of interest to others in the STRAIGHT family. Ads may be placed by seeing Ken Phillips at Open Meeting.

	1 mo. 3 mos.			1 mo. 3 mos.	
1/8 page	\$10	\$24	1/2 page	\$20	\$48
1/4 page	15	36	1 page	40	96

WELCOME

by Yvonne Schulte, STRAIGHT Sibling
Though many times your feelings hurt,
Because they put you in,
Remember it's for the better of it,
'Cause drugs were just a sin.

Love you so much,
From the earth to the sky,
I welcome you now,
Newcomers,
Hi!

This is the first contribution from STRAIGHT Siblings.
Thanks, Yvonne!

NEWS CLIPPINGS . . .

"The housewife with a bottle stashed behind the detergent, who provided plots for countless TV dramas, may have been a myth. But the working woman with the screwdriver business breakfast, the white wine lunch, . . . is not. As women move into the workplace . . . some of them are drinking way too much. They may, in fact, be trying to keep up with the boys. It would be a pity if women, as new settlers in male territory, couldn't change its more destructive habits."

—Excerpted from "New From the World of Medicine," Reader's Digest, January 1982.

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