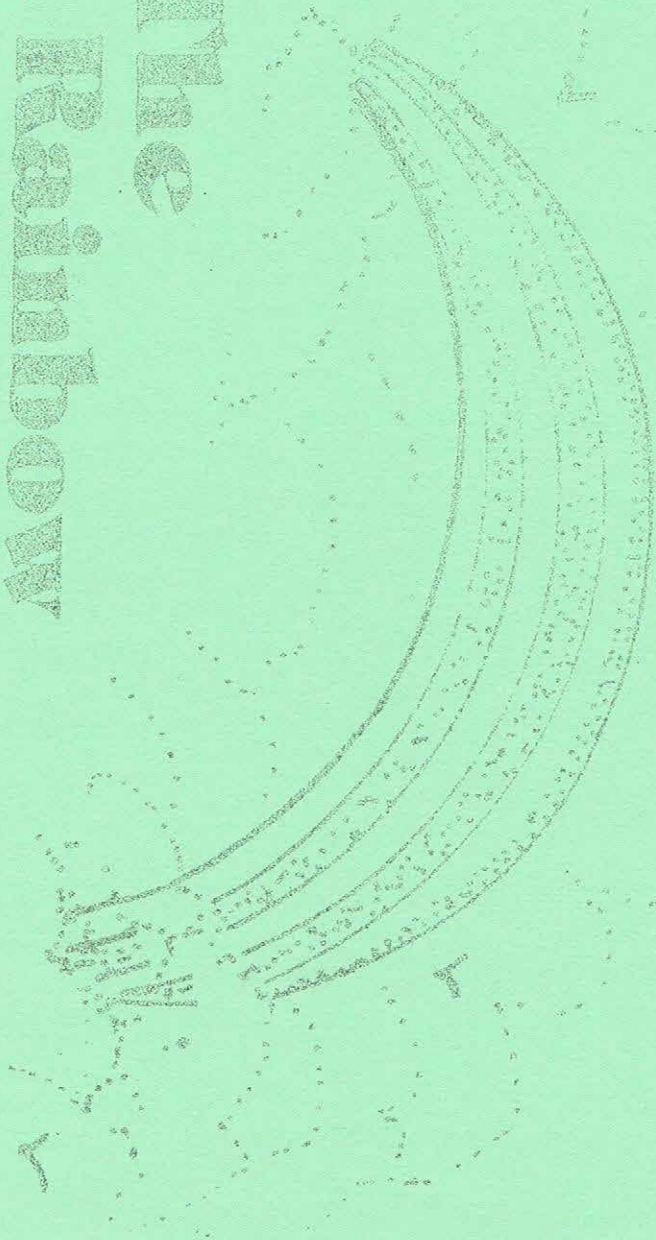


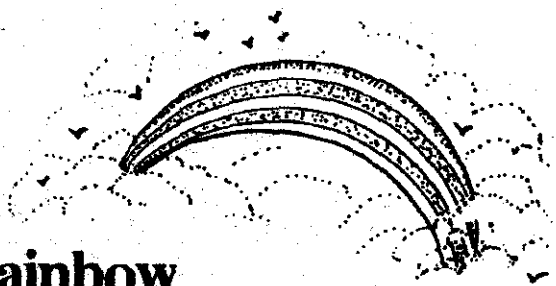
June

1983

# The Rainbow Connection



# The Rainbow Connection



" ... caring and sharing the N.A. way ... "

VOLUME FIVE NUMBER FOUR JUNE 1983

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

Out And About.....	Page 2
Trust.....	Page 4
N.A. Courage.....	Page 6
N.A. Hotlines.....	Page 8
Insanity.....	Page 9
In Memory.....	Page 10
Quality vs. Quantity.....	Page 11
Our Common Survival.....	Page 12
Tradition Twelve.....	Page 14
Announcements.....	Page 17
Calendar.....	Page 18
Staff Report.....	Page 20

Published as a monthly service of the  
Marietta ASC.

Individual opinions expressed do not  
necessarily represent those of N.A.  
as a whole.

© Copyright 1983 - Rainbow Connection

OUT AND ABOUT

At our last ASC meeting, many of us came in the meeting with a lot of frustrations and ended up leaving with simply a lot of questions and a spirit of understanding that more will be revealed.

One of the people I sponsor happened to take my life into her hands and suggested that we leave from the ASC and head to a regional meeting out of state. I needed to get out of me and out of the immediate problems that I seemed to be faced with, so off we drove, knowing that God was taking care of us and that we would find more new hope, strength, and experience through addicts coming together in the spirit of service.

The first thing we found after eight hours of hard driving was a bunch of people sitting around waiting for something to happen. We were the thing at the moment that they were waiting for. So we made ourselves right at home and sat down to get acquainted with one another. We began to share our own area's problems and they began to share some of the problems that they were having in their region.

What we found is that we are still not any different than when we came here and that we are continuing to get better. I found that what I can do as a recovering addict is to always seek some Good Orderly Direction in my life. I found that we as an area are not perfect, but we are very fortunate to have what we have. You know, there are those places that still do not have any N.A. meetings, there are those places that people have to wait from week to week to attend a meeting.

There are also those people that do not understand what the spirit of service really

is. The spirit of giving simply for the sake of knowing that you are giving all that you have in order that no addict may die seeking recovery. I found that I have a personal responsibility through the love and the

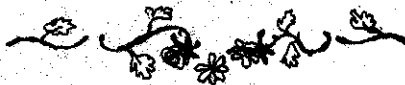
and the gratitude that I feel to give everything I can in loving service.

I have over 100 meetings that I can pick and choose from every week. I have many different people that I can choose to be my sponsor. I have long term clean time that I can look to in other people for guidance and direction. I have opportunities to serve. There are those places that do not have what we in our area have.

I really didn't realize that when I went into that other region that I would have anything to offer. I found that I did have hope. I also had a little experience. I also found that I can care and share in many ways and that I really am not always self-seeking in my every thought. Through service, I am beginning to see a new me emerge.

I am also beginning to see a newness in others. I feel sometimes that my senses and nerve endings are on the outside and my awareness of the task we have before us is never ending but as through each day and the victories we find in ourselves and see in each other by living one more day clean that we are winning a battle against our disease. Long live the recovering addict and those willing to pit themselves against the enemy of our disease. We will fight, we will surrender, and more will be revealed.

I Love You Each and Every One



## TRUST

How do we begin to Trust when we have never experienced trust, we do not have any idea what Trust is, where we are to get it from, and why do we even need to have trust.

Trust, just like Faith is an intangible. We see that we Trust in God every time we buy something at the store - "In God We Trust". I saw that every day the money passed from my hand to the dope man's hand for dope. I suppose I trusted the dope man that I would get off on whatever I was being sold. Yet, how many times was I disillusioned, how many times was my trust betrayed when I left my money with someone with only a promise to show for it and I have always known that promises were made to be broken.

We come into the fellowship with hopelessness instead of hope, lies and deceit instead of honesty, hatred instead of love, there is no trust. We can not even trust ourselves any longer. Just one too many times have we found ourselves betrayed by our habits and our own actions. We are told that if we walked into the doors or arms of the fellowship that we really did have some hope, then we saw people that had been staying clean for one day at a time, some even for years. We were suddenly enlightened that if they could do it, then maybe so could we. We were treated with respect instead of disgust, with caring and consideration as opposed to being kicked around like a wounded dog without a home. Suddenly we found that people were good to us if we let them be. We were told

that we should forgive ourselves through the steps and that we would soon be better through surrender. Slowly, and oftentimes through agonizing pain we saw that they were telling us the truth, we were really feeling better, inside and out. With truth, comes trust.

I was told in a meeting once that I would not be trusted if I did not trust.

I have also been told that I was what I see in others. I recall the first time someone asked me to participate in a Group as a Trusted Servant. They took the first step towards trusting me with their money. Can you believe that, they did not say, "We are trusting you not to go out and get loaded with our group funds"; they said instead, "You are ready to be a Trusted Servant of this group and the name implies just that, Trusted Servant, we think you will be good." I could not believe it!

I have learned that I must trust to be trusted. If I cannot share my feelings honestly and openly as well as trustingly with those I sponsor, how can they share that way with me.

Trust as I mentioned before is an intangible. You know it's there or that it is not there. Like all of the many benefits of this program, the best things come from deep inside of us. These beautiful gems of personhood have always been there, we just refused to face them.

Thank you for letting me Share.

We cannot change the nature of the Addict or Addiction... we can help change the old lie, "Once an addict, always an addict," by striving to make recovery more available. God, help us to remember this difference.



## N.A. COURAGE

When I got enough time in the program to start doing service work, I noticed that there was a definite lack of people with time in the program who were willing to do much needed service work. With six months clean time, I was serving three groups and was a discussion leader and a chair person at least once a week. Being the secretary of three groups, I had the responsibility of getting a chair and leader for the groups and I noticed that a great many addicts seemed to a large degree to be recovered. I say this because many times when I asked relative oldtimers to lead a discussion or chair a meeting, they had to go to work or go to church or had a date or were going to dance at a nightclub. I soon started noticing that different addicts had different levels of dedication to the program of Narcotics Anonymous.

I was somewhat distressed especially after a meeting when there would be some newcomers and all the people with more time than me would leave without talking to them. It was at this point that I realized that the old saying, "If you want something done right, do it yourself," still held true. I began doing what I could, and decided that when asked to do something, I would. I began respecting the people with two, four, and six years clean who still had time to do small things and weren't on a recovery-ego trip. I still liked and admired the other oldtimers but I just didn't want what they had to offer. I remember one old timer saying this program needed Power Junkies. I thank the God of my understanding that that statement is a horrendous misconception. I found that this program needs love junkies and that if you are a power junkie

you are in the wrong place.

Another misconception that some people seem to suffer from is the idea that Narcotics Anonymous is a supplemental program to other Twelve Step programs. I've heard people say, "I go to one program to get and come to N.A. to give. Well, we don't need that kind of service. I don't go around preaching or bearing witness of the fruits of the N.A. program. I let my recovery and the recovery of other hard core N.A. members speak for itself. We are a complete and total program in ourselves.

What I'm saying is that the program of Narcotics Anonymous has proven itself to be effective and the real members of the program have proven themselves. Based on that concept, I'm sure that you can see why I disapprove of non-members or people who have not surrendered to the program of N.A. or people who have made a dual surrender, doing service work for us. Or worse yet, people who have time in another program who think that they are over qualified for the lower levels of service work and want to go straight to the top. And, for the sake of humility, I feel obliged to remind everyone that service work is exactly what it should be like. It is not an ego trip, it is not a power trip, it is not sharing your infinite wisdom with some poor ignorant dope fiend, it is the self-less giving of love, unconditionally.

I don't want to take cheap shots at anyone and I realize that many areas are very new and very small. However, small areas don't have to stay small. The serenity prayer says, "The courage to change the things I can. Small or remote areas don't have to practice acceptance, and as far as that goes, neither do large areas. If you are a drug addict and found your initial recovery



in a hospital or another program, then you may owe your life to that hospital or other program. But if you have found ongoing recovery in Narcotics Anonymous then you owe it to the millions of suffering drug addicts who are literally dying for recovery to do what you can to promote unity and strengthen the program in your area.

Dedicated in Loving Service,  
Page C.

N.A. HOTLINES



This list of N.A. Hotline Numbers may be Helpful to you or someone you know who may be going out of town and needs meeting information.

Atlanta, GA.....	(404)875-3995
New York City.....	(212)565-6206
Lincoln, NE.....	(402)474-4441
Youngstown, OH.....	(216)744-8061
Warren, OH.....	(216)399-5344
Allentown, PA.....	(215)435-7111
Philadelphia, PA.....	(215)276-2703
Reading, PA.....	(215)777-0064
New Jersey.....	(201)659-6381
Birmingham, AL.....	(205)326-9842
Montgomery, AL.....	(205)326-9842
Mobile, AL.....	(205)460-7703
Northern Nebraska.....	(702)322-4811
Chicago, IL.....	(312)346-9043
Peoria, IL.....	(309)692-1032
Rockford, IL.....	(815)964-5959
Milwaukee, WI.....	(414)647-2444
Central Indiana.....	(317)543-4588
Nashville, TN.....	(615)297-9762
Memphis, TN.....	(901)276-5483

Please send all other known Hotline Numbers to our staff so we can list them.



INSANITY

The fears that I've had, could drive me insane. I refused to change. I build up my fortress, keeping You out. Cause I had the power, carried all of the clout. And my editions, of knowledge and fame. Dusty books about wisdom, the friendship game. I had no problems, cause I knew it all. But, nothing prepared me, for my eventual fall. Once in the darkness, I cried out for You. I wanted to die, but was afraid of that, too.

It was a risque situation, full of mind game contemplation including self-factuation and loss of concentration on living.

I wanted no vulnerability no addictive personality no weak spot for my enemies just people to please, please me.

Soon though, it came to me in the dead of night. If I could lose control, I would be alright. I made a decision, to change myself. To use the good qualities, I stored on the shelf. Yet to admit my defects, was a hard thing to do. But I found it easier, when I could share them with You. I'm just beginning, to find someone new. And now in the light, I have something to say. I don't fear tomorrow, instead I live for today.

Janelle

If you want what we have to offer, and are willing to make the effort to get it, then you are ready to take certain steps. These are suggested only, but they are the principles that made our recovery possible.

---

IN MEMORY

I am very grateful today for many things. I have a new life and many friends to share that life. We experience many things together, we share and grow together.

Today we buried one of our friends. She said she was tired of surviving, so she took her life. She was a beautiful young woman, eyes that sparkled like sun shining on the water and a smile that warmed your spirit. The friends she left have learned so much from the pain that we are feeling. We have worked hard to find some good in her death. We are trying hard to use the tools that Narcotics Anonymous has given us to deal with the emotions we are feeling. Her death has taught us some very valuable things; to be grateful for our friends and to share with them every chance we have. Also that this program is not just a matter of using or not using, but a matter of life or death!

She left us a very valuable gift of love and acceptance. This experience has left us with a deeper understanding of our Higher Powers, of our disease, and how terribly dangerous this disease is. A realization of how quickly the insanity can reach out and grab us if we don't reach out and ask for help.

I've watched these friends pulling together like never before to ease each other's pain. To give each and everyone the strength and hope they need at any particular moment. This week I've watched God at work in every person, every word, and every action. We love you, Darlene.

## QUALITY vs QUANTITY

I am interested in the quality of my recovery today. I once was interested in quantity. Not discounting long-term sobriety, but I got lost in the amount of time I had. The more time I had made me think I had all the answers and I became a self-appointed guru to my fellow members. I became in charge of my life and those about me. I forgot about my disease, and it was very active and spread over into every area of my life. I became resentful and anger took over, and of course, I relapsed after several years of dryness. I am grateful today for my relapse, because I was brought to a rude and very painful awakening. By the Grace of a Loving God, did I return to the N.A. program. I was brought to my knees and I finally surrendered my will. I came back a newcomer and I pray I stay one, one day at a time, for one day is all I have. Through the N.A. way of life, the Twelve Steps working in my life, I live today happy, joyous and free. I have a full life of miracles today. Today I feel I have some quality clean time. I am interested in healthy, honest sharing in my relationships. I am interested in going to any lengths to stay clean and serene. I am interested in selfless service to my N.A. brothers and sisters, and the addict that still suffers. I want the principles working today in every area of my life. I live today, I care today. I struggled so long in this program for control, but when I surrendered my will and my life, which I have to do continuously, I receive the peace and serenity of God. I then know a little of the meaning of the principles of our beautiful program. I talked the talk for years. Today I have been given the oppor-

tunity to live these principles one day at a time. God Bless all of you. N.A. works if you want it to. Sweet Surrender is the key.

I Love You All,

### OUR COMMON SURVIVAL

As we stand by the principals of our program, which are embodied in the Traditions, so may we fall by ignoring them. Our common welfare should come first; personal recovery depends on N.A. unity. The principle of "united we stand, divided we fall" holds as true for us as it did for Abe Lincoln. The Traditions of N.A. are not negotiable. If we are to survive as a Fellowship, they must be followed. The only way in which the Traditions can be followed by N.A. as a whole is for each of us to adhere to them individually. If some body else chooses not to follow the Traditions in their own program, we may try to correct them in as constructive a manner as possible, and may certainly pray for them, but we must not use this as an excuse to forsake the Traditions for ourselves, like the Steps of N.A., the Traditions are simple and straight forward, but they are not always easy to follow. They require us to let go of our ego and self-will, and let "a Loving God as he may express Himself in our group conscience" be our "our ultimate authority." "The Traditions tell us that "our leaders are but trusted servants; they do not govern." They remind us to place "principles before personalities." All of these principles are ego deflating, just like the Steps are, and we don't tend to like that, although it seems to be an inevitable part

of growing in this program.

Because of the ego deflating nature of service, it is easy to go to another extreme and let another person carry the load. After all, who wants to go through all the hassle of fighting other people's ego trips, as well as one's own, not to mention all that plain old work? It's just such a drag, and anyway, God has lots of agents, right? Well, as the old saying goes, if everybody thinks that somebody else will do something then nobody does anything. We all need to do our part of the footwork to keep this Fellowship going and growing. Right now N. A. is growing faster than ever before. Now that the dream of a Basic Text has become a reality, we expect a large increase of newcomers and those who can't pull together might get blown away by the oncoming tide. Don't forget, millions of addicts need what God has given us as only the dying can. Aside from all of this, the simple fact is that no giving means no receiving and that goes for all of us, not just the newcomers who can only give their need.

There are some tough times ahead for our Fellowship and the key to our survival lies in our Traditions. We need our Fellowship and our Fellowship needs us. We have to earn our recovery to feel that it is ours, God gives recovery to us in such a way that it becomes ours through the giving. We all have a right to our recovery but it will not be handed to us without an effort on our part. "We keep what we have only with vigilance.. "We have too good a thing going in N.A. to allow it to be lost through egotism or apathy. Let's live the Traditions and work to keep what we have and make it better, for the sake of our common survival.

**When all else fails, read OUR BOOK!**



## TRADITION TWELVE



Anonymity is the spiritual foundation of all our Traditions, ever reminding us to place principles before personalities.

The Twelve Traditions of Narcotics Anonymous are even more inter-related than our Steps. They compliment each other and are bound together by the principle of anonymity. We've heard "principles before personalities" so often it has become a cliché like "Take it Easy" or "First Things First". But what does it mean? What is the principle of anonymity?

Anonymity is the whole basis of the program; it is truly the foundation. In order to survive, we must set aside the differences we live by and become a part of a greater whole. The awakening of anonymity in each of us occurs when we finally give up trying to manage our lives and begin to depend on a power greater than ourselves.

Let us examine anonymity. It is the spiritual foundation of our Traditions. The First Tradition talks about common welfare and N.A. unity. The placing of common welfare before personal welfare in the group setting is a direct application of anonymity. The "I wants, I wills, and I shoulds" are replaced by "we"-oriented thinking for the common good; the result is unity. Unity is the direct result of the application of the principle of anonymity within the group and the Fellowship.

The Second Tradition talks about having but one ultimate authority. No single person (no personality) has authority. This is vested in a loving God to whom we have turned over our will and lives. The anonymity of the servant should be typical of

our leaders. They themselves are not important; it is only the service which counts.

The Third Tradition is a statement of anonymity. We do not define our members. We only insist that they have a desire to stop using. Nothing else should matter. This desire is the one crucial must of our program. We must either come with it or develop it before this program will work for us.

Anonymity makes possible the autonomy of our Fourth Tradition. Without the principals of anonymity, each group would set itself up as something different from the rest---something special. Our groups would begin competing with each other for members and for recognition. The resulting loss of unity would eventually destroy N.A.

Our Fifth Tradition says that each group has but one primary purpose. This unity of purpose is the tie that binds our groups together. Our groups are not truly different; each has the same spiritual aim and orientation. This anonymity, and the anonymity of the groups, make it possible for an addict to depend on us for help.

Tradition Six tells us that we ought never finance, endorse, or lend the N.A. name to any facility or outside enterprise. To violate this rule would to lose our anonymity. With anonymity gone, personalities would take over and problems of money, property and prestige would surely divert us from our primary purpose.

Our Seventh Tradition guarantees each member the right and privilege to share in the financial support of Narcotics Anonymous. Each of us is given the equal opportunity to help anonymously. We uniformly reject outside contributions regardless of their source. We also do not allow a member to contribute more than his fair share;



to do so would be to encourage the loss of their anonymity.

In regards to our Eighth Tradition, we do not single out our members as professionals"; we try to maintain their chance to experience personal recovery and grow. Not forcing power and status on our members is yet another form of anonymity.

The service board and committees of our Ninth Tradition are directly responsible to a loving God as expressed in a group conscience. They are not responsible to any particular personality or set of personalities.

In our Tenth Tradition, we strive to limit the growth of powerful personalities and safeguard anonymity by having no opinion on outside issues. When controversy exists, people take sides, personalities come forward, and as this happens anonymity fades. Here again we find consistency of action, and in its own way this is also anonymity.

In our Eleventh Tradition, we find that the way we relate to the outside world is in fact using personal anonymity. None of us are singled out, no one of us represents N.A.; to do so would be to place our personalities ahead of others and this would be a violation of our anonymity. In attraction rather than promotion, we give the addict the right to join in our anonymity and find recovery.

Anonymity is everywhere in our Traditions and in our Fellowship. It is one of the basics of recovery. The principle of anonymity protects us from our defects of personality and character. Where anonymity exists, personalities and differences have no power. Anonymity in action makes it impossible for personalities to come before principles.

\*\*\*\*\* ANNOUNCEMENTS \*\*\*\*\*

REGIONAL SERVICE OFFICE

The old dream of a regional service office became a reality last month. The hours of the new office are 10-4, Monday to Friday. Services include: Literature, public information, Twelve Step referrals, communications, central calendar for all events, etc. The primary need right now is a Twelve Step list form each Area within the Georgia Region, as well as outlying groups in Georgia.

The RSO published the first of a monthly newsletter announcing news of the Fellowship birthdays, committee meetings, social events and other N.A. announcements. The deadline is the third Sunday of each month, the day of the RSC Meeting. Announcements can be called into the RSO at (404) 266-8179 or go by and visit 3166 Maple Dr., Atlanta GA 30305.

MARIETTA AREA NEWS

PICNIC AT PIGEON HILL, Saturday, June 25th  
1:00 PM till dark, see flyers, kites,  
frisbee, meeting, bring your own picnic.  
Call Jaye for info: 432-7451.

NEW MEETING: Smyrna's Architects of Ad-  
Versity. Wednesday nights 8:00 PM, down-  
stairs, Smyrna Fire Department.



If you're having trouble going to sleep  
counting sheep, maybe you need to talk to  
the Shepard.

\*\*\*\*\*ANOTHER WHEN, WHERE AND WHY!\*\*\*\*\*

CALENDAR

• WE ARE WELL ON OUR WAY! Service Workshops Dance, Cook out, Speaker: Motorcycle Ed Contact LEGS P.O. BOX 02413, Cleveland, Ohio 44102



• 4th EAST COAST CONVENTION - Bethehem, PA June 24-26. "Freedom Through Fellowship" Lehigh University. For information, call (215)322-8896 or (215)776-1548. Write 4th ECCNA, P.O. Box 4475, Allentown, PA, 19101.

• FLORIDA'S 2nd REGIONAL CONVENTION - Ft. Lauderdale, FL July 1-4. "A Vision of Hope" Galt Hotel. Write 2nd FRCNA. P.O. Box 23575, Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33307.

• FREEDOM CRUISE down Chesapeake Bay Sunday July 3rd from 9 am-5pm, boarding time 8 pm \$6.00 - send name and address to; Baltimore N.A. Special Events, 619 Aldershot Road, Baltimore, Maryland 21229. Seats for 350.

• A NEW BEGINNING - SECOND ANNUAL VIRGINIA CONVENTION OF N.A. January 6,7,8, 84. Registration: \$10.00; Banquet, dance and registration: \$30.00; total package: reg, room meals, banquet, and dance: single \$109, double \$81, triple rooms available. Send to AVCNA, P.O. Box 2131, Newport News, VA 23602.

• WISCONSIN STATEWIDE N.A. MINI-CONFERENCE, Fondulac, WS July 16, 1983

TODAY WE LIVE, for more info call; Fred (414)284-3008, Sandy (414)284-4736, or Chicago Ed (312)779-5776 or write: ECWAS C-NA, P.O. Box 453, Kevaskum, WS 53040.

\*\*\*\*\* CALENDAR \*\*\*\*\*

- 1st ANNUAL STAMPEDE FOR SERENITY CAMPOUT  
Sponsored by Northern Nevada Area July 15-17 at Stampede Reservoir, 19 miles west of Reno, NV. Call before July 1st; NA Hotline (702)322-4811 or write: Northern Nevada ASC, P.O. Box 3394, Sparks NV 89431.
- 4th ANNUAL B.C.N.A.R. "Serene Summer Festival" July 1-3. Call (604)383-3553. Write P.O. Box 384, Station "E", Victoria, B.C.
- BLUE RIDGE MINI-CONFERENCE will be held on July 4th weekend. Contact Caroline RSC NA c/o Brent C. 50 Albenarle Road, Asheville, NC 28801
- SECOND ANNUAL NORTH ALABAMA AREA RALLY "Freedom In The Valley", June 19, Monte Santo State Park, Huntsville, AL 11 a.m. till ..... Register by June 5th. Write; Patty, P.O. Box 5133, Decatur, AL 35601 or call Bill B. (205) 353-0924.
- THE IMPOSSIBLE DREAM - World Convention of Narcotics Anonymous, P.O. Box 216, Jackson Heights, N.Y. 11372. Registration: \$15.00 Banquet: \$30.00, Vista Hotel, attention: Reservations Dept., 3 World Trade Center, N.Y.M N.Y., 10277-0356. \$75.00 Quad. September 1 - 4th.
- "LET'S NOT GO OVERBOARD" .. Midnight Cruise Friday June 24th on board the MV Trinidad., For info and tickets, contact:(312)486-3045
- Want to have a great year? Why not subscribe to the Auckland newsletter called the "New View" from New Zealand. Send two dollars to; N.A. (Auckland), P.O. Box 6520 Wellesley Street, Auckland, 1, New Zealand. N.A. is a world wide Fellowship ..... reach out!

MacMillan Dictionary for Children

ADDICT

A person who has let himself be taken over by a drug or a habit. An addict has little control over himself because the drug or habit controls him. Doctors are trying to find a cure for heroin addicts. Note: the word addict used to mean "to deliver" or "to turn over". A judge could addict someone to prison. A person could be addicted to another person as a servant or slave.



STAFF REPORT



Here we go again! It's good to be back! and in the right month! Thanks to Sheryl, Jaye, John, Bo, Rick, Greg, our subscribers and contributors, as well as the loving support of the Marietta ASC and the Power of a loving God as expressed in the group consciousness. Progress is being made, articles are being submitted and we are getting much needed support but typists, new material, editing, sorting and mailing are still very much in demand - so if you have some free time, we can use your help! If you are interested, please contact the Rainbow staff.

Subscribers: Members and other persons who wish to subscribe to the Rainbow, please send \$12.00 along with your name, complete address and phone number to: Rainbow Connection, 890 Atlanta Road, Marietta, GA 30060.