

You an Addict?

Call NACC... NOW!

BY LAURENCE E. KEEFE

If you're a drug addict, time is running out.

That's the warning issued by John Cahill, senior public information specialist at the Narcotics Addiction Control Commission (NACC).

A special campaign is being run by NACC across the state to get as many addicts as possible into its treatment programs before stringent, new anti-drug laws take effect on Sept. 1.

NACC has set up a "Hotline" phone number, manned day and night, which can be called toll free by addicts anywhere in the state. Addicts needing help and rehabilitation can phone 800-522-2193 to get into treatment sponsored by the commission.

The State Legislature, at the urging of Gov. Rockefeller passed laws at the last session which amended the state's Mental Hygiene Law and the penal code to provide mandatory life sentences for drug pushers.

"A life sentence doesn't mean that they will spend the rest of their life in jail," explained Tom Blecher, associate representative



of the Rochester NACC. "But it does mean they will be on parole for the rest of their life."

"Most addicts deal to support their habits," noted Blecher. "And the law says that if they're caught with a certain amount, they're presumed to be dealing."

If an addict comes to NACC for help, does he run the risk of being turned over to the police?

"We have nothing to do with enforcement," said Blecher, adding that the Mental Hygiene Law provides that the records of addicts who are certified by

NACC can only be opened by court order.

Tom Storace, a lawyer working for the legal department of NACC, said that he was "not aware of any court cases in which a judge allowed the police to examine records of civil certification."

Asked whether the new law may prompt a wave of new arrests by police, Belcher would only say, "well, we've heard rumors, but I don't know for sure. We're quite separate from them... I don't have any more to do with the police than you do."

But even without a more active push by the police departments across the state, addicts will continue to be arrested.

And now the penalties will be much harsher.

Life is a long time to be on parole.

800-522-2193.

NEW POST FOR WRIGHT

Vatican City [RNS] Pope Paul has appointed Cardinal John Wright, former Bishop of Pittsburgh, Pa., to membership in the Pontifical Commission for Interpretation of Decrees by Vatican II. Cardinal Wright also heads the Vatican Congregation for the Clergy.

CORRECTION

Last week the Courier-Journal reported Father George Fischer was a member of the Mechanics Institute Class of 1922. Father Fischer was a member of the

University of Notre Dame Class of 1922, when he received the degree of Bachelor of Philosophy in Commerce.

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Sister Mary Kruckow
Joins OHD Ministry

The diocese's rural human development ministry has an extra pair of hands with the addition of Sister Mary Kruckow, former coordinating principal of Corning Catholic Schools who resigned to accept the new position.

After 16 years in education in Corning, Sister Mary will be based in Hornell helping "the rural Christian community be responsive to the rural disadvantaged." She will assist existing programs in Addison, Corning, Hornell and Canisteo as well as forming and coordinating new human development committees

in areas that need help.

Stressing that "disadvantage is a multi-faceted concept," she plans to attack the problems of rural ministry on several levels including housing, transportation and employment. Sister Mary favors an ecumenical approach by the community with the "participation" and cooperation of both the disadvantaged and advantaged.

Besides her role as a school administrator and teacher, Sister Mary has served as mathematics specialist for the Rochester Catholic Diocesan Education Office.

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