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# STRAIGHT

DIRECTOR - CINCINNATI  
Gerald Rushing

Ken Barun  
Room 213, East Wing  
White House  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Ken,

Enclosed is the information which you requested. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to call me at 813-576-8929.

Sincerely,

*Mel Riddile / Ken*

Mel Riddile, EdD

## SUMMONS

Rule 4 1970 Ohio Rules of Civil Procedure

Case No. 86-CV-0446

Doc. \_\_\_\_\_ Page \_\_\_\_\_

Name	Address
Eric Weaver, a minor by and through his next friend, Robert Weaver	
Robert Weaver	Box 13A, Route 1
Rosemary Weaver	Loveland, Ohio 45140
	Plaintiff

vs.

SUMMONS

ON

COMPLAINT

Name	Address
Straight, Inc. c/o Barbara R. Wiethe, Statutory Agent	15 West Sixth Street Cincinnati, Ohio 45202
	Defendant

To the above named defendant.....s:

You are hereby summoned that a complaint (a copy of which is hereto attached and made a part hereof) has been filed against you in this court by the plaintiff.....s named herein.

You are required to serve upon the plaintiff.....s attorney, or upon the plaintiff.....s if.....he.....has.....no attorney of record, a copy of your answer to the complaint within 28 days after service of this summons upon you, exclusive of the day of service. Said answer must be filed with this court within three days after service on Plaintiff's Attorney.

The name and address of the plaintiff.....s attorney is as follows: \_\_\_\_\_

COURT OF COMMON PLEAS  
CLERMONT COUNTY, OHIO

CASE NO: 86CV0446

ERIC WEAVER, a minor :  
by and through his next friend, :  
Robert Weaver :  
Box 13A, Route 1 :  
Loveland, Ohio 45140 :

AND :

ROBERT WEAVER :  
Box 13A, Route 1 :  
Loveland, Ohio 45140 :

AND :

ROSEMARY WEAVER :  
Box 13A, Route 1 :  
Loveland, Ohio 45140 :

Plaintiffs, :

v. :

STRAIGHT, INC. :  
c/o Barbara R. Wiethe, :  
Statutory Agent :  
15 West Sixth Street :  
Cincinnati, Ohio 45202 :

COMPLAINT WITH  
JURY DEMAND  
ENDORSED HEREON

AND :

JERRY RUSHING :  
personal address unknown :

AND :

WILLIAM GLICK :  
personal address unknown :

AND :

WINNIE BOYD :  
personal address unknown :

AND :

WILLIAM DELANEY :  
personal address unknown :

Defendants. :

1. Plaintiff Eric Weaver is an Ohio resident who  
mailing address is Box 13A, Route 1, Loveland, Ohio 45140, and

*Robert A. Weaver*  
CLERK OF COURTS  
CLERMONT COUNTY

1986 JUN 30 AM 10:11

FILED

at all times material hereto was under the age of eighteen (18). Rosemary Weaver is, and at all times material hereto, was Eric Weaver's natural mother. Plaintiff Robert Weaver is, and at all material times hereto was Eric Weaver's father. Both Rosemary and Robert Weaver are Ohio residents whose mailing address is Box 13A, Route 1, Loveland, Ohio 45140.

2. Defendant Straight, Inc. ("Straight") is a Florida non-profit corporation and is licensed to do business in the State of Ohio. Its statutory agent in the State of Ohio is Barbara R. Wiethe, 15 West 6th Street, Cincinnati, Ohio 45202. Straight facilities are located in Clermont County, Ohio.

3. Jerry Rushing was at all material times hereto, the director of the Straight program and a member of the "executive staff" in Clermont County, and his personal residence is unknown.

4. William Glick was at all times material hereto, the associate director of Straight and a member of the "executive staff" and whose personal residence is unknown.

5. Winnie Boyd was at all times material hereto, an employee of Straight and a member of the "executive staff" but whose title is unknown and whose personal residence is unknown.

6. William Delaney was at all times material hereto an employee of the Straight program and a member of the "executive staff" in Clermont County, but whose title and residence is unknown.

7. In return for the promise of plaintiffs Rosemary and Robert Weaver to pay \$2,000.00, defendant Straight and its executive staff agreed to exercise due care in the care, custody, and treatment of plaintiff.

8. On March 12, 1985, Plaintiff entered the drug treatment program known as Straight, Inc.

9. He was removed from the program on June 13, 1985 by his parents, Robert and Rosemary Weaver.

#### FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION

10. Plaintiff reiterates the allegations made in paragraphs 1 through 9 herein.

11. During the period of his residency in the program, plaintiff Eric Weaver, was on numerous occasions subjected to physical beatings and painful physical restraint inflicted upon him by other residents of the program.

12. These beatings and restraints were authorized, approved, and directed by the staff of Straight while acting as agents for Straight.

#### SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION

13. Plaintiff reiterates the allegations made in paragraphs 1 through 12 herein.

14. Straight, Inc. holds itself out to the public by means of advertising through the print media, through the broadcast media and through word of mouth in the community as a treatment facility for adolescent drug abusers where professional treatment is afforded by specially trained personnel.

15. Relying upon such representations, plaintiffs Robert and Rosemary Weaver entered their son plaintiff Eric Weaver into the Straight drug program on March 12, 1985 where he remained enrolled until June 13, 1985.



16. Defendants Straight, Inc. and defendants members of the executive staff, recklessly and negligently failed during that time to conduct a proper evaluation of plaintiff to determine the nature and extent of his drug use; the nature and extent of any underlined psychological problems; or the possible adverse impact of the strenuous program upon him. No screening was done prior to his intake interview and the interview itself was conducted by another resident in the program who was neither licensed nor had any formal psychological training, who conducted the interview from a questionnaire.

17. Defendants Straight, Inc. and defendants, its executive staff, negligently and recklessly delegated all responsibility for the daily therapeutic program during the period plaintiff Eric Weaver was in the Straight program to untrained and unlicensed staff members who were given authority to do the following: Administer physical assaults; administer continuous verbal attacks; administer continuous and lengthy confinement in a small isolation room; inflict sensory deprivation upon him; deny him association with friends and family; deny him adequate sleep, adequate food, and/or adequate educational opportunities. Defendants Straight, Inc. and its executive staff also required plaintiff Eric Weaver to go through extended group therapy sessions that were not supervised by licensed or trained personnel, but were run by other residents in the program. This was done according to therapeutic plan in a negligent and reckless manner that was neither individualized nor administered with proper safeguards to protect the safety and emotional health of the plaintiff Eric Weaver.

18. Defendants negligently and recklessly failed to seek adequate psychiatric and medical help for plaintiff Eric Weaver when plaintiff Eric Weaver's emotional condition began to deteriorate and he began to exhibit signs of clinical psychiatric illness, such as continuing to misbehave in the groups, yell, sing inappropriately, exhibit signs of depression and carve his body until purulent scabs formed.

19. Defendant Straight and the executive staff negligently and recklessly failed to properly supervise the care, custody, and treatment of plaintiff Eric by the staff.

20. As a result of defendants reckless and negligent evaluation and treatment of plaintiff Eric Weaver, Eric Weaver has suffered from clinical depression severe enough to require ongoing psychiatric treatment.

#### THIRD CAUSE OF ACTION

21. Plaintiff reiterates the allegations made in paragraphs 1 through 20 herein.

22. Plaintiff Eric Weaver was for all times during the period of his participation in the Straight program a minor of compulsory school age as defined in Ohio Revised Code Section 3321.01 et. seq.

23. Defendants, during the entire time in question, did willfully and maliciously, in violation of state law, fail to send plaintiff Eric Weaver to school or to provide alternate instruction as required by Ohio Revised Code Section 3321.01 et. seq. or Ohio Revised Code Chapter 3323.

24. As a direct and proximate result of defendants' actions, plaintiff Eric Weaver has been deprived of his right to an education guaranteed by State law and has suffered mental distress and loss of educational opportunities.

#### FOURTH CAUSE OF ACTION

25. Plaintiff reiterates the allegations made in paragraphs 1 through 24 herein.

26. On an unknown date prior to March 12, 1985, defendant hired Winnie Boyd, William Glick, Gerald Rushing and Delaney as an employee of defendant in the capacity of drug counsellors and program directors. These persons continued to be employed by Defendant through the period of March 12, 1985 to June 13, 1985, and during that period they were employed by defendant in the capacity of drug counsellors and/or psychologists. During the above stated period, defendants Boyd, Glick, Rushing and Delaney were incompetent and unfit to perform the work required as psychologists and/or social workers and/or counsellors for defendant because they were insufficiently trained as such and not licensed as such.

27. The above named defendants engaged in the practice of psychology for compensation and other personal gain in violation of R.C. Section 4757.02 of the Ohio Revised Code.

28. The above named defendants engaged in the practice of counselling and/or social work in violation of R.C. Section 4757.02 of the Ohio Revised Code. Defendant knew or should have known that a person in plaintiff's position would be subjected to an unreasonable risk of harm from the above named defendants as employees of the defendant.

29. Defendant, when it hired the above named defendants as employees, breached the duty it owed to plaintiff to use reasonable care in hiring its employees by its failure to conduct a reasonable investigation to the background and character of the above named defendants prior to their hiring by defendant.

30. Defendant, when it hired the above named defendants as employees, breached the duty it owed to plaintiff to use reasonable care in hiring its employees, by hiring them, when defendant, prior to the time of such hiring, knew or should have known that they were incompetent or unfit for the employment as psychologists, social workers, counsellors, or psychiatry.

31. The above stated injuries sustained by plaintiff were a direct and proximate result of the above named defendants engaging in the practice of psychology, social work, counselling and psychiatry.

32. Defendants, in order to induce the plaintiff's parents to place their son, plaintiff, Eric Weaver into the Straight Program, and to retain him there once placed in the program, made certain false representations of fact to the plaintiff's parents, to wit: That qualified professional personnel would provide therapy to the plaintiff utilizing accepted methods of treatment; that plaintiff, Eric Weaver, would be treated in a professional and humane manner; that plaintiff was progressing in a normal manner within the program; that his change in personality in the course of treatment and self mutilation were normal developments in the

treatment process; and that his marked deterioration and physical appearance was a result of normal grappling with issues of drug dependence.

33. Said representations were made with full knowledge of their falsity upon which the plaintiff parents, accepting defendants' claims of professional qualifications, reasonably relied.

34. Representations made by the defendants to the plaintiff parents resulted in injuries to plaintiff Eric Weaver, requiring psychiatric treatment for depression caused by the non-professional and the abusive treatment he received, and permanent physical disfigurement from scars which resulted from the mutilation that he inflicted upon himself in the program.

35. As a proximate result of defendants acts alleged herein, plaintiff incurred severe and grievance mental and emotional suffering, fright, anguish, shock, nervousness, anxiety and depression. Plaintiff continues to be fearful, anxious, nervous and depressed.

36. As a direct and proximate result of defendants acts alleged herein, plaintiffs Robert and Rosemary Weaver were caused to obtain medical and psychiatric treatment for Eric on numerous occasions, which medical and psychiatric treatment will continue well into the future, and presently total Sixteen Thousand Dollars (\$16,000) in expenses.

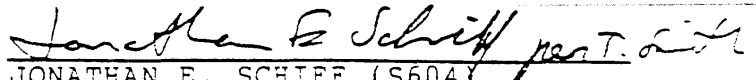
WHEREFORE, Plaintiffs requests FIVE HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$500,000) compensatory damages and FIVE HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$500,000) punitive damages plus attorney fees and costs, and all other appropriate relief.

JURY DEMAND

Plaintiffs hereby demand trial by jury.



TIMOTHY A. SMITH (S503)  
Counsel for Plaintiffs  
1100 Gwynne Building  
602 Main Street  
Cincinnati, Ohio 45202  
(513) 621-8700



JONATHAN E. SCHIFF (S604)  
Co-Counsel for Plaintiffs  
1553 Cedar Avenue  
Cincinnati, Ohio 45224  
(513) 681-6277  
(513) 591-0224

COURT OF COMMON PLEAS  
CLERMONT COUNTY, OHIO

ERIC WEAVER, a minor	:	CASE 84-CV-0446
by and through his next friend,	:	(Ringland, J.)
Robert Weaver, et al.	:	
Plaintiffs	:	
-vs-	:	ANSWER OF DEFENDANTS,
STRAIGHT, INC., et al.	:	<u>STRAIGHT, INC., JERRY</u>
Defendants	:	<u>RUSHING, WILLIAM GLICK,</u>
	:	<u>WINNIE BOYD AND JERRY DELANEY</u>

ANSWER

Now comes the defendants, Straight, Inc., Jerry Rushing, William Glick, Winnie Boyd and Jerry Delaney, and for their Answer to the Complaint of the plaintiffs state as follows:

FIRST DEFENSE

1. These answering defendants deny the allegations contained in paragraph 1 of plaintiffs' Complaint for want of knowledge.
2. These answering defendants admit the allegations contained in paragraph 2 of plaintiffs' Complaint.
3. These answering defendants admit that Jerry Rushing was the director of the Straight program and a member of the "executive staff" of the Straight program in Clermont County, Ohio, but deny the remaining allegations of paragraph 3 of plaintiffs' Complaint.
4. These answering defendants admit that William Glick was an associate director of Straight, Inc. and a member of the "executive staff", but deny the remaining allegations of paragraph 4 of plaintiffs' Complaint.
5. These answering defendants admit that Winnie Boyd was an employee of Straight, Inc. and a member of the "executive staff",

but deny the remaining allegations of paragraph 5 of plaintiffs' Complaint.

6. These answering defendants admit that a person named Jerry Delaney was an employee of Straight, Inc. and a member of the "executive staff", but deny the remaining allegations of paragraph 6 of plaintiffs' Complaint.

7. These answering defendants admit that the plaintiffs, Rosemary and Robert Weaver, brought plaintiff, Eric Weaver, to Straight, Inc. in Clermont County, Ohio and filled out certain documents with respect to the admission of the said Eric Weaver into the Straight, Inc. program. These answering defendants further admit that plaintiffs, Rosemary and Robert Weaver, agreed to pay certain amounts for the care and treatment of the said Eric Weaver, but deny the remaining allegations in paragraph 7 of plaintiffs' Complaint.

8. These answering defendants admit that plaintiff, Eric Weaver, entered the Straight, Inc. program, but deny the remaining allegations in paragraph 8 of plaintiffs' Complaint.

9. These answering defendants admit that plaintiff, Eric Weaver, left the Straight, Inc. program, but deny the remaining allegations in paragraph 9 of plaintiffs' Complaint.

ANSWER TO FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION

10. These answering defendants incorporate herein by reference their responses to paragraphs 1 through 9 of plaintiffs' Complaint as if fully rewritten herein.

11. These answering defendants deny the allegations contained in paragraph 11 of plaintiffs' Complaint.

12. These answering defendants deny the allegations contained in paragraph 12 of plaintiffs' Complaint.



ANSWER TO SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION

13. These answering defendants incorporate herein by reference their responses to paragraph 1 through 12 of plaintiffs' Complaint as if fully rewritten herein.

14. These answering defendants admit that Straight, Inc. serves as a treatment facility for adolescent drug abusers, but deny the remaining allegations of paragraph 14 of plaintiffs' Complaint.

15. These answering defendants deny the allegations contained in paragraph 15 of plaintiffs' Complaint.

16. These answering defendants deny the allegations set forth in paragraph 16 of Plaintiff's Complaint.

17. These answering defendants deny the allegations contained in paragraph 17 of plaintiffs' Complaint.

18. These answering defendants deny the allegations contained in paragraph 18 of plaintiffs' Complaint.

19. These answering defendants deny the allegations contained in paragraph 19 of plaintiffs' Complaint.

20. These answering defendants deny the allegations contained in paragraph 20 of plaintiffs' Complaint.

ANSWER TO THIRD CAUSE OF ACTION

21. These answering defendants incorporate herein by reference their responses to paragraphs 1 through 20 of plaintiffs' Complaint as if fully rewritten herein.

22. For want of knowledge, these answering defendants deny the allegations contained in paragraph 22 of plaintiffs' Complaint.

23. These answering defendants deny the allegations contained in paragraph 23 of plaintiffs' Complaint.

24. These answering defendants deny the allegations contained in paragraph 24 of plaintiffs' Complaint.

ANSWER TO FOURTH CAUSE OF ACTION

25. These answering defendants incorporate herein by reference their responses to paragraphs 1 through 24 of plaintiffs' Complaint as if fully rewritten herein.

26. These answering defendants admit that defendant, Straight, Inc., hired the defendants Winnie Boyd, William Glick, Jerry Rushing, and Jerry Delaney, as employees, but these answering defendants deny the remaining allegations of paragraph 26 of plaintiffs' Complaint.

27. These answering defendants deny the allegations contained in paragraph 27 of plaintiffs' Complaint.

28. These answering defendants deny the allegations contained in paragraph 28 of plaintiffs' Complaint.

29. These answering defendants deny the allegations contained in paragraph 29 of plaintiffs' Complaint.

30. These answering defendants deny the allegations contained in paragraph 30 of plaintiffs' Complaint.

31. These answering defendants deny the allegations contained in paragraph 31 of plaintiffs' Complaint.

32. These answering defendants deny the allegations contained in paragraph 32 of plaintiffs' Complaint.

33. These answering defendants deny the allegations contained in paragraph 33 of plaintiffs' Complaint.

34. These answering defendants deny the allegations contained in paragraph 34 of plaintiffs' Complaint.

35. These answering defendants deny the allegations contained in paragraph 35 of plaintiffs' Complaint.

36. These answering defendants deny the allegations contained in paragraph 36 of plaintiffs' Complaint.

#### SECOND DEFENSE

For their second and further defense herein, these answering defendants state that the Complaint of the plaintiffs fails to state a claim upon which relief can be granted.

#### THIRD DEFENSE

For their third and further defense herein, these answering defendants state that all or part of plaintiffs' claims are barred by the applicable statutes of limitations.

#### FOURTH DEFENSE

For their fourth and further defense herein, these answering defendants incorporate their responses as above set forth and further state that plaintiffs voluntarily and knowingly consented to enroll the plaintiff, Eric Weaver, in the program of defendant, Straight, Inc., and to undergo treatment consistent with defendant's policies and regulations of which plaintiffs were fully aware prior to their consent.

#### FIFTH DEFENSE

For their fifth and further defense herein, these answering defendants incorporate their responses as above set forth and further state that plaintiffs' claims are barred by virtue of a release signed by the plaintiffs, Robert Weaver and Rosemary Weaver, a copy of which is attached hereto, incorporated herein by reference and designated "Exhibit A".

#### SIXTH DEFENSE

For their sixth and further defense herein, these answering defendants incorporate their responses as above set forth and further state that at all times pertinent their actions were reasonable and justifiable under the circumstances and were totally without actual or implied malice.

#### SEVENTH DEFENSE

For their seventh and further defense herein, these answering defendants incorporate their responses as above set forth and further state that plaintiffs enrolled Eric Weaver as a participant in a program instituted by Straight, Inc., and the actions of Straight, Inc. and its employees were at all time reasonable, justifiable in furtherance of said program and totally without malice.

#### EIGHTH DEFENSE

For their eighth and further defense herein, these answering defendants incorporate their responses as above set forth and further state that any physical force that may have been used against the plaintiff, Eric Weaver, was used in self-defense or in defense of others and was reasonable, justifiable and necessary under the circumstances. The defendants used only that degree of force as was reasonably necessary to defend themselves and others against the violent physical attacks of the plaintiff, Eric Weaver.

WHEREFORE, having fully answered, defendants, Straight, Inc., Jerry Rushing, William Glick, Winnie Boyd and Jerry Delaney demand that the Complaint of the plaintiffs be dismissed at the cost of the plaintiffs.

Charles J. Kelly  
Attorney for Defendants,  
Straight, Inc., Jerry Rushing,  
William Glick, Winnie Boyd,  
and Jerry Delaney  
900 Central Trust Center  
201 East Fifth Street  
Cincinnati, Ohio 45202

OF COUNSEL:

LINDHORST & DREIDAME

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that a copy of the foregoing has been served by regular U.S. Mail on Timothy A. Smith, 1100 Gwynne Building, 602 Main Street, Cincinnati, Ohio 45202, and Jonathan E. Schiff, 1553 Cedar Avenue, Cincinnati, Ohio 45224, attorneys for plaintiffs, this 24<sup>th</sup> day of July, 1986.

Charles J. Kelly

"EXHIBIT A"

GENERAL RELEASE  
FOR

DIRECTOR - CINCINNATI  
Gerald Rushing

Cric M. Weaver  
(Client)

KNOW ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENTS THAT THE UNDERSIGNED Robert A

Rozanne Weaver do hereby enter into the following agreement with STRAIGHT, INC., a non-profit Florida corporation, and agree as follows:

WHEREAS, the undersigned have placed or caused to be placed their above-named minor or legal age child in the rehabilitation program of STRAIGHT, INC., and

WHEREAS, the undersigned are fully aware that during the course of treatment that said minor or legal age child may accidentally or intentionally cause himself or herself to be injured, and

WHEREAS, as an integral part of the rehabilitation program the above-named child will be placed in a host home supervised by volunteer workers in the STRAIGHT, INC. program, and

WHEREAS, on the principal considerations for accepting any person into the STRAIGHT, INC. program is a complete release of any liability in connection with any occurrence that transpired during the course of treatment,

NOW, THEREFORE, we the undersigned having full legal authority to do so, do hereby agree to release, indemnify and save harmless STRAIGHT, INC., and any of its employees, agents, servants or volunteer workers from any and all actions, causes of actions, liability and costs of every kind or nature in connection with the treatment and supervision of the minor or legal age child named above.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, we have hereunto set our hands and seals this 12<sup>th</sup> day of March, 1985, in Clermont County, Ohio.

Cric M. Weaver  
Client Signature

Rozanne Weaver  
Parent Signature

Bob Weaver  
Parent Signature

Tim V. Root  
WITNESS

James Salquist  
WITNESS

3/12/85  
DATE

3-12-85  
DATE

Straight, Inc. • P.O. Box 9 • 6074 Branch Hill - Guinea Pike • Milford, OH 45150 • (513) 575-2673  
A non-profit family oriented drug free rehabilitation program for the youthful drug abuser.

SV 1 BK- copy for me and return orig to AW ✓

ST  
fyi + return  
pls

REPORT ON CLASS ACTION SUIT AGAINST STRAIGHT, INC., SPRINGFIELD, VIRGINIA

COPY

from OBM

308647

MT  
file

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HE0064

HE005

ST046

o General Overview

The suit was filed by Fred Collins Jr., a 20 year old resident of Virginia previously enrolled in the St. Petersburg, Florida program and moved back to Virginia when the program opened in October.

Collins is represented by the law firm of Hirschkop and Grad. The suit was filed in U.S. District Court, Alexandria, Virginia.

Collins is asking for injunctive and monetary relief, and brought the suit as a class action. The class he is asking to be certified consists of everyone that has ever been in Straight Inc.

o Specific Complaints

- A) That Straight is enrolling individuals in the program under duress and without obtaining their permission.
- B) That Straight is subjecting individuals to physical and psychological abuse.
- C) That Straight is preventing individuals from leaving the program against their will.

o Straight's Position

The allegations are false.

- 1) There is no duress as each potential client must voluntarily sign a treatment agreement form and the parents must voluntarily sign an admission agreement form. The program rules and procedures are explained fully to the client and parents before the forms are signed. Specifically, Collins intake interview lasted three hours, of which 1½ hours of paperwork was involved. The intake proceedings are supervised by executive staff. The intake procedures are constantly under review by the staff, State agencies where the programs operate, outside consultants, and the media.
- 2) Straight does not subject clients to physical abuse. The only time restraint must be used is when a client becomes physically abusive to other clients in the program. Straight has treated more than three thousand clients and has never had one serious injury resulting from the use of physical restraint. Drug dependent people can be prone to be physically aggressive, which cannot be permitted in a room full of people. The physical eruptions are rare, they have occurred, but were always handled in a restraining manner.
- 3) Clients are not subjected to psychological abuse. This is a common complaint by the non-professional against the technique of group

confrontation which Straight uses so the client will recognize honesty is essential to becoming drug-free. The program is under constant scrutiny of qualified third party professionals, such as:

Dr. Robert DuPont  
American Council on Marijuana  
6193 Executive Boulevard  
Rockville, Maryland 20015

Dr. Andrew Malcom  
55 Queen Street, East - Suite 1402  
Toronto, Canada M5C 1R5

Dr. Sharon Wegscheider  
OnSite  
1645 Hennepin Avenue, Suite 206  
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55403

Jack Sarmanian, A.C.S.W.  
330 Bedford Street  
Lexington, Massachusetts 02173

Not one of these professionals has ever found any psychological abuse.

- 4) Straight has been challenged before, that they were holding clients against their will. As in any treatment facility, there is a specific exit procedure which involves counseling the client with the parents and staff. Straight does not simply have an "open door" any time a client decides they do not want to be there. Straight has an obligation to the parents to do their utmost in restoring their child to a drug-free life style. The exit procedure has been carefully scrutinized and has always been upheld.
- 5) The charges against the Washington program are not new ones. The same issues have been levied in St. Petersburg, Atlanta, and Cincinnati. Straight has been cleared in each case.

Fred Collins Jr. asked the court for an injunction to prevent Straight from doing A, B & C further. The court, based upon a hearing of both sides, refused to issue the injunction.

Keith Stroup, former Director of the National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws ( NORML ) is apparently involved. It is not known exactly to what extent.

Fred Collins parents feel devastated, and will appear as witnesses for Straight. His younger brother has chosen to remain in Straight.

Straight has treated more than three thousand young people and 60% are drug-free today. The typical adolescent drug treatment programs have a success rate of 3 to 18 percent.

William D. Oliver, Executive Director of Straight Inc. has offered to come to Washington and answer any questions.

Enclosed are copies of newspaper articles reporting on the same kind of charges brought in other cities.



# Drug treatment center cleared of wrongdoing

A Cobb County drug treatment center that was taken to court by the American Civil Liberties Union in January has made minor adjustments in the way it operates. But the center has been cleared of any wrongdoing by a three-month investigation that grew out of the court action.

The ACLU went to Cobb Superior Court in January to force Straight Inc. to release five teenagers the ACLU said were being held against their wills at the drug-abuse rehabilitation center on Austell Road in Marietta.

Four months after the hearings, the center has added a psychologist to its staff and has obtained a temporary state permit to operate. But Straight Inc. emerged unscathed from the court action.

After two days in January of closed court hearings and meetings between attorneys and Straight officials, the civil liberties union and the drug treatment center agreed to let an independent committee

investigate the treatment center.

The suits were dismissed in early March, shortly after the committee was formed, according to ACLU attorney Kathleen Wilde. "As far as the panel's concerned, the whole thing is over now," Ms. Wilde said Friday.

The panel was formed principally to investigate charges that Straight was holding teenagers against their wills, physically abusing them and brainwashing them.

The panel consisted of Fulton County Superior Court Judge Jack Etheridge, psychiatrist Dr. William Wieland and Marilyn Benveniste, a consultant on public speaking.

Panel members and attorneys for both the ACLU and Straight were not allowed to comment on the investigation or its results, under the terms of the settlement, according to Ms. Wilde.

Straight director Dave Tilley, a former middle-school principal in Cobb, said he was "very excited

about the complimentary approach" the committee took.

"They had total access to the center, our records everything — and found no abuse," Tilley said. "Basically, the only recommendations they made were administrative."

Department of Human Resources official Carol Benson said Straight — unlicensed by the state when the litigation began — was issued a temporary license April 1.

In addition to tightening up several "technical, picky details" required by the state, the center has added a psychologist, Benson said. He added that he found no evidence of brainwashing at Straight.

"I wouldn't call it brainwashing," Benson said. "Most accepted drug programs involve a substitution of ideas and a rethinking of how you deal with stress. If you'd say Alcoholics Anonymous is brainwashing, I guess you'd say Straight is brainwashing."

— Kathryn Stroeve

# Mt. Washington Press State investigators clear Straight of abuse charges

The Ohio Bureau of Drug Abuse last week cleared Straight Incorporated, the drug rehabilitation program operating near Milford, of charges of abuse of authority and abuse of teenage clients.

The report is the result of an investigation conducted in May at the request of the American Civil Liberties Union chapter in Cincinnati. ~~Before the release of the report last week, ACLU was reported as saying that the Straight program may turn out to be a model for other drug-related programs in the future.~~

Straight originated in Florida and has operated in Clermont County since the first of this year. It is a rigidly

structured program for young people, designed to change a life style which leans on drug dependence. Clients are in residence during the course of the program, living in a strictly guarded style, with intense counseling and peer pressures.

There has appeared to be little middle ground in judgment of the program. People, including clients, are either all for the operation or all against it.

Stewart Bell, director of the Ohio Bureau of Drug Abuse, said that he and two other investigators interviewed seven staff members, six clients, and 14 parents. They also studied

(Continued on page 20)

## Investigators clear Straight

(Continued from page 1)

13 client files, chosen at random from Straight records. They studied the written rules and signed consent of clients and parents contained in the files, histories of drug use, personal and medical backgrounds, reports of physical examinations, and notes about the progress of the clients. All of these records, Bell reported, are kept in client files.

He and his fellow investigators found fault only with the lack of a written grievance procedure.

In his conclusion, Bell said, "In my opinion, the program is a functional, legitimate program." He said, "Admittedly, the style of the operation of this program is quite demanding and therefore bound to cause controversy to those used to more conventional treatment modalities. However, ~~the investigation team could find only evidence of total professionalism and concern for the clients by the staff.~~" He also said that the complaints on which ACLU had based its request for an investigation provided only circumstantial hearsay evidence.

Bell also said that the final report was in direct variance with what he

had anticipated filing when he entered the case.

"I am very much basically against that type of program on a personal level, so I was looking for a bone to pick," Bell said. He said, however, that the team found no abuse of clients and no inconsistencies of policies. He said of the highly structured program, "I don't say it's right or wrong. I'm merely saying it's effective for the people that's there."

ACLU had received complaints prior to asking for the investigation, and Margie Robertson of ACLU said that additional complaints have been received since. The complaints, she said, accuse Straight of verbal abuse and other tactics designed to destroy the young person's self esteem and allege that clients are not permitted to leave the center when they wish.

Ruth Ann Newton, director of Straight in Milford, said, "I hope this puts some of the complaints to rest."

St. Petersburg, Florida, is the home base of Straight Incorporated. The branch at Mt. Repose, east of Milford, is the first to be established under Straight operation. When it was opened, 55 young people from the Cincinnati area were transferred from Florida.

VIRGINIA COALITION OF PARENTS  
AGAINST DRUG & ALCOHOL ABUSE  
P. O. Box 4155  
McLean, Va. 22103

MEMBER OF:

National Federation  
of Parents for  
Drug-Free Youth (NFP)

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for Loudoun  
Students (PALS)

12/7/82

Letters Editor  
The Fairfax Journal

Subject: Suits against Straight, Inc.

Your writer, Jim Wolffe, who wrote the article "Four To File Suits Against Straight" in the Fairfax Journal of 12/7/82, quotes extensively from an interview with attorney Keith Stroup without giving important information about this infamous individual and of his more infamous pro-drug point of view. For Straight, Inc. to be criticized by Stroup with his long background of nation-wide pro-drug agitation is a better defense of Straight, Inc. than any other single item of news that could be written.

According to the 1981 book "High In America" by Patrick Anderson (available in the Fairfax County public libraries) as quoted from its cover flap, "Keith Stroup, a young lawyer... was reborn in the 1970s as Mr. Marijuana, the Prime Minister of Pot, and thereafter American politics were never quite the same... The tireless Stroup forged a political coalition that stretched from eminent scientists to pot smoking lawyers to pie-throwing Yippies, and this unique lobby sparked a wave of reform that saw a dozen states end criminal penalties for marijuana use"

It is to be expected that Keith Stroup, as the single person who is most responsible for the horrible epidemic of drug use by children in this country, would find fault with those who would with sacrificial dedication try to rescue those helpless kids from their enslavement to drugs.

At present, the only age group in America that has an increasing mortality rate (all others are declining) is the group from 15 to 24, primarily due to their increasing use of mind altering substances such as Stroup advocates legalizing.

For the many illegal activities attributed to Stroup in the book, he is deserving of prison, not uncritical quotation as reporter Wolfe has adorned him with on the pages of the Fairfax Journal. But for his role in contributing to the depredation of America's young people through their use of illegal drugs he deserves much worse...

Hang in there, Straight. With enemies like Stroup and his kind, you must be the legitimate and effective drug rehabilitation program for kids that we parents are counting on you to be.



DeForest Z. Rathbone, Jr., Member  
Virginia Coalition of Parents  
Against Drug and Alcohol Abuse  
1044 Springvale Rd.  
Great Falls, Virginia 22066  
Phone: Home 759-2215  
Work 921-2996

cc: Straight, Inc.

## State agency gives Straight Inc. good marks

By MILO GEYELIN

St. Petersburg Times Staff Writer

**CLEARWATER** — Straight Inc., the Pinellas-based drug abuse treatment center for teen-agers, has apparently straightened up.

Just over a year after the Florida Department of Health and Rehabilitative Services cited Straight for not complying with several state regulations, the state agency gave Straight a clean bill of health.

"Overall, (Straight) is in very good shape," states a report written last month by Harry W. Moffett, a mental health program analyst with the state agency who inspected Straight for two days last May. Straight "has complied with the department's request to correct deficiencies noted in other site visits," Moffett wrote.

***'I'm glad we got differences between us and the monitoring staff resolved. Every year we improve, not just in the things they monitor, but in our therapeutic techniques, which they do not monitor.'***

— Miller Newton of Straight

The Department of Health and Rehabilitative Services inspects Straight annually to determine if it is complying with state laws regulating drug abuse treatment centers. Because of its treatment methods, the private, nonprofit treatment center has been controversial in the past and, in March 1981, state agency inspectors cited the program for several violations.

**STRAIGHT WAS** criticized for keeping inadequate client treatment records and not documenting a staff training program. Several randomly chosen clients complained that Straight staff members threatened to have a court order them into the program or commit them to a mental institution unless they joined Straight voluntarily. (Straight does not have the authority to do either.) And several clients also told of bedroom doors being locked from the outside in the foster homes where they were housed.

The report concluded that many of the is-

ssues had been raised before but that Straight had made "little or no attempt to come into compliance with the regulations."

This year, however, agency inspectors randomly examined 12 client records and found all to be in compliance with state regulations. Evaluations of clients' personal histories found to be deficient last year were in "excellent" condition this year, the report stated. And locks on doors at five foster homes randomly visited by the inspectors had been removed. In their place were alarms that will sound if a teen-ager tries to leave but that present no safety hazard.

The issue of Straight staff members using bogus threats to get teen-agers to sign themselves into the program was not addressed because no clients interviewed this year by state agency officials had complained of the threats, said agency mental health program specialist Terry Harper. Harper, who participated in the inspections this year and last year, said the state agency didn't bring up the issue this year because it is not directly covered in the agency's regulations.

"I'm proud of the job we've done in getting near perfect paper work," said Straight's administrative director Miller Newton, who said each client file takes nearly three hours to prepare properly. "I'm glad we got differences between us and the monitoring staff resolved," said Newton. "Every year we improve, not just in the things they monitor, but in our therapeutic techniques, which they do not monitor."

**STRAIGHT'S THERAPY** involves intense peer pressure that is intended to change the thinking and behavior of its teen-age clients. The teen-agers are separated from friends and families for indefinite lengths of time and taught to jettison the values and lifestyles commonly associated with drug use. Critics of the program, who include parents and former clients, have charged Straight with physical and mental abuse. Supporters deny the charges and say the program is the best treatment available for drug-dependent youths.

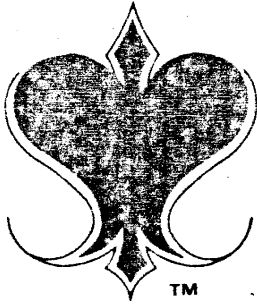
Straight, at 3001 Gandy Blvd., is rapidly expanding into a national organization. The program plans to open 26 branches nationwide by 1987.

Its recently opened branch in Atlanta was sued by the American Civil Liberties Union last February. The suit alleged that five youths were being detained by Straight against their will and were "in immediate danger of their physical and mental health." The suit was dropped last March after an out-of-court settlement called for a three-member panel to investigate the charges.

The panel cleared the program of any wrongdoing, but the terms of the settlement prevent the attorneys involved or the members of the panel from discussing the details of their findings.

[Straight: A Direction for Youth]

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# STRAIGHT

*A Direction for Youth*

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---

William D. Oliver  
*Executive Director*  
Miller Newton, Ph.D.  
*Clinical Director*

---

October 7, 1983

*File*

Nicholas E. Calio  
Litigation Counsel  
Washington Legal Foundation  
1612 K Street, N.W.  
Suite #502  
Washington, D.C. 20006

Dear Nick:

Betty and I enjoyed meeting you at our recent White House breakfast. We look forward to working with you on the legal problems of Straight.

Our National Office advises that the information you requested on pending lawsuits is being prepared for mailing, along with brochures, etc. on our program.

Thanks for your much needed help and support,

*Mel Sembler*  
Mel Sembler

cc: Dr. Carlton Turner

11 JUL 1983

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ST. PETERSBURG TIMES

MONDAY, JULY 4, 1983

3D

**ANN  
LANDERS**



## Let's see what dad has to say about this

**DEAR ANN:** Something in the *Reader's Digest* reminded me of a letter that appeared in your column years ago. Please print it and take the credit, complete with the sequel. It made me smile all day. — Peg In Philadelphia

**DEAR PEG:** Your memory is mighty sharp. I strongly suspect the father who gave his daughters those dimes did indeed get the idea from me. Here it is for my readers to enjoy again:

"When our daughters reached dating age, we told them some boys would be gentlemen and others would be out for whatever they could get. If the girls ever felt backed into a corner, we instructed them to give the boy a dime and tell him, 'Call my dad. If he says what you're suggesting is okay with him, then it's okay with me.' Our oldest daughter, now 27, married recently. Late on the evening of her wedding day the phone rang. When I picked it up, my newlywed daughter's smiling voice asked, 'Dad, Bob just made an interesting suggestion. Is it okay now?'"

### Drug program

**DEAR ANN:** I want to tell you about an organization that saved our daughter's life. It also has given our entire family an entirely different way of looking at ourselves and others.

Please tell your readers that not all "druggies" present the classic symptoms: rebellion, no interest in school, objectionable friends, personality changes, sloppiness, etc. Our daughter was the ideal teen-ager for the three years she was using chemical substances. She hid her habit from us. It is positively incredible that she was able to do it. I thought we were so close. The girl was living two different lives. It's a miracle she didn't kill herself.

When the doctors told us how much dope she was taking we couldn't believe it. We caught on when we found the paraphernalia in her closet.

I don't think the Editor  
of the St. Pete Times  
would be a supporter of  
Straight .

Mel Sembler



**ANN  
LANDERS**



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When the doctors told us how much dope she was taking we couldn't believe it. We caught on when we found the paraphernalia in her closet — loads of it.

The organization that saved her is STRAIGHT. We have been in it (the entire family) for six months. When we faced her with our discovery, she said, "Thank God! I need to get off everything. It's been driving me crazy."

Anyone interested should write to STRAIGHT INC., PO Box 848, Marietta, Ga. 30061, phone 404-434-8679. — Grateful In Ga.

**DEAR GRATEFUL:** Dr. Robert L. DuPont, founding director of the National Institute on Drug Abuse, says STRAIGHT is the best program of its kind in the country. That's good enough for me.

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** Straight Inc. has many supporters among its clients and their parents. However, some aspects of the program have been criticized by state officials, and a former client successfully sued the program, saying he was held against his will. The organization is based in St. Petersburg.

I don't think the Editor  
of the St. Pete Times  
would be a supporter of  
Straight .

Mel Sembler

May 30, 1983

8861 1101 2

*File*

Carlton Turner, Ph.D.  
Director, Office of Drug Abuse Policy  
Executive Office of The President

William M. Burns, Sr. *WB*  
Special Assistant

Dear Dr. Turner:

I am sure you heard the jury awarded Fred Collins, Jr. \$220,000 in damages in his lawsuit against Straight, Inc. They set compensatory damages at \$40,000 and punitive damages at \$180,000. The compensatory is for any losses he may have incurred because he was a client at Straight which he claimed caused the loss of his family and his father's financial support. He asked to be compensated for the cost of his college education, room and board, fraternity dues, car payment, \$2,000 from a summer job did not work while in Straight, and the one year loss of a \$33,000 salary as a Mining Engineer he hopes to become (he plans to switch from the Forestry School, he just dropped out of, to the Engineering School at VPI). The punitive damages were for the humiliation he has suffered for being publicly labeled a druggie, the loss of his family, neighbors, and friends. Collins claims he suffers from depression, is unable to sleep properly, has a fear of being kidnapped and taken back to Straight, has developed a compulsive obsessive personality, and will require 200-400 hours of psychotherapy.

During the damages hearing Collins was permitted to present three former Straight clients that testified they had to escape after not being permitted to freely exit the Straight program. Under cross examination it was brought out the witnesses had a lengthy history of drug and alcohol use, family problems, the young man from Canada was taken to Straight from a Montana jail, and it was their parents that took them to Straight. Also, all three had a long history of violent behavior. I was surprised Straight was not permitted to have any of their graduates testify the program helped them.

The damages hearing was summarized by Mr. Hirschkopp requesting the jury to send a strong message to Straight that they cannot hold adults against their will by giving Collins an award in the hundreds of thousands of dollars. Mr. Goldfarb summarized by saying Collins was a con-man and would never get back to his family if he recieved a large award.

The plaintiff has three weeks to prepare recommendations for injunctions they wish Judge Bryan to issue against Straight, and the defendent has another three weeks to respond to the plaintiff's requests before Judge Bryan determines if any injunctions will be issued. Judge Bryan will rule on the jury's award hopefully by June 10. He can reduce the amount of the award. It is my personal opinion that the award will not be reduced and Straight will appeal to the Circuit Court of Appeals. Straight attorneys feel Judge Bryan errored during the trial and the case is appealable. During the trial he ruled on several objections from the plaintiff and defendent and said the issue is whether Collins was falsely imprisoned or not. This obviously had an impact on the jury. Also,

in his instructions to the jury he refused to include a statement that Straight could exercise reasonable restraint but the jury was to decide whether Straight went beyond reasonably restraining Collins.

The law suit began as a \$3.5 billion class action and rejected, filed again as a \$150 million suit against the Springfield program, and finally brought as a Collins vs Straight \$750,000 lawsuit. All-in-all, Straight has been found guilty of a violation of the false imprisonment law for discouraging a legal adult against his desire to depart the program, although he never requested formally to leave.

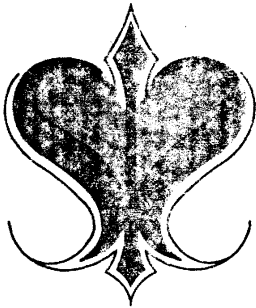
I think Dr. Meeks expressed it well when he said, "We hold clients at the Psychiatric Institute that say they want to leave for five days before releasing them. This decision is going to weaken all programs that have adults as clients". Straight has changed their exit procedures because they do not intend to violate the jury's decision, i.e.; trying to persuade an adult to remain in the program and not allowing them to walk out immediately constitutes false imprisonment. One of the real dangers is the 18 year old that demands to be released immediately and walks out the door and is killed shortly thereafter puts Straight in the position of being sued by the parents for not restraining them.

I have made several recommendations to Mr. William Oliver, Straight's National Executive Director, as follows:

- a) Miller Newton should have less visibility to the press, the program needs to be perceived as a parents program not a Miller Newton program;
- b) Junior and Senior Staff members should be certified by each state as counselors;
- c) improve the intake procedures to screen applicants more thoroughly to ensure the major problem is drug dependence, and the family can become well enough to complete the therapy;
- d) new clients should be diagnosed by a Psychiatrist as being drug, alcohol dependent either by the admission form or preferably thru an interview;
- e) adapt a "power of positive thinking" model for the 4th and 5th phases to reverse the negativity of dealing with a dependency problem;
- f) associate more with the medical community;
- g) assess the degree of program intensity necessary to obtain a drug-free lifestyle;
- h) develop techniques transforming group discipline into self-discipline earlier.

There is no question that Straight has an excellent program however there are ways it can be improved, which they are looking to do.

All indications are that Straight plans to appeal the false imprisonment conviction and I hope they ultimately can take it to the Supreme Court. I feel any rehabilitation program has the responsibility to exercise good judgement to discourage and non violently restrain a client from just walking out the door because they do not want to deal with their dependency. I am reminded of the famous Oliver Wendell Holmes trial which qualified freedom of speech, you have the right to freely express yourself but not the right to enter a theatre and falsely scream "fire", which can result in needless deaths. A Supreme Court decision on this case would qualify the false imprisonment law as to whether a drug, alcohol rehabilitation program has the responsibility to discourage a drug, alcohol dependent adult client from walking out the door immediately.



## **STRAIGHT** *A Direction for Youth*

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*Attorney at Law*

**PAST PRESIDENTS**

Mel Sembler  
Guy N. Perenich

December 14, 1981

Dr. Carlton Turner  
424 Old Executive Office Bldg.  
Office Of Policy Development  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Carlton:

We received the information you forwarded to us  
regarding foundations.

We are putting together a package to give out on  
a national basis, and we will stay in touch with  
you as to how our efforts are going.

Thanks for the information and for your interest  
in Straight.

Sincerely,

James E. Hartz  
Executive Director  
STRAIGHT, INC.

JEH:sk

**Straight, Inc. • P.O. Box 40052 • St. Petersburg, Florida 33743 • 577-6011**  
A non-profit family oriented drug rehabilitation program for the youthful drug abuser.

This article appeared in  
the Orlando Sentinel.

Mel

## 'Straight' is welcome alternative to drugs

"My name is Joe Davenport. I'm sixteen years old and a druggie. When I was eleven, I started smoking pot. By the time I was in the ninth grade, I was popping LSD, huffing gas, eating mushrooms, sniffing cocaine, and shooting heroin. My mom was sick with worry, and dad never spoke unless he shouted. I dropped out of school in the tenth grade and sold hashish to my friends, so I could buy more drugs. Finally, my girlfriend and I robbed houses to feed our drug habit. My girlfriend even sold her body for drugs. Finally, dad forced me into his car and brought me here to Straight. At first, I fought it with all my might, but they made me see I was on a collision course with disaster. I look forward to finishing my seventh step and getting back in school again. I want to be an engineer like dad. I want to show mom I love her and make up for the heartache I have caused. I'm just thankful to all the people here at Straight "for making a program like this possible where kids like me can be made to see themselves and change for the better."

This is a typical story I heard repeatedly in St. Petersburg on a Friday night when I decided to see for myself the program praised and damned by two television networks and successfully sued by former participants.

My visit was inspired by a wave making judge in Sanford who was pressuring my client to get his son to Straight or hell would bar the way. It seems the judge himself has a daughter in Straight. For two nights a week, for many months, the judge and his wife have trudged to St. Petersburg for the four hour sessions.

Yes, Straight does use strong arm tactics. For example, during the first days, a newcomer is restrained around the clock by an oldcomer who hangs onto the newcomer's belt. During sleeping hours, the oldcomer will block the only exit

Thursday, May 26, 1983

## FOR THE RECORD

By RUSSELL  
TROUTMAN



Russell Troutman, former president of the Florida Bar Association, is a Winter Park attorney specializing in personal injury and wrongful death.

from the room with his bed. During showers, the oldcomer will stand by the shower curtain. The newcomer forfeits privacy until privacy is earned.

However, the peer pressure is fierce to complete the seven steps of the program. The counselors make no bones about verbalizing a participant's poor attitude.

But it takes a man of harder stuff than I to hold back the tears when these kids tell of their turmoil, their agony, their hope for the future. The parents rap with their children on an open microphone. Wellsprings of love begin to flow towards family unity.

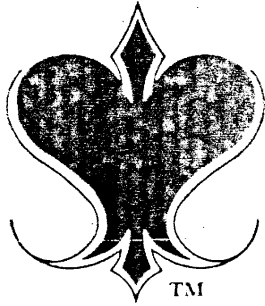
Yet, Straight is sometimes sued. Not frequently when compared with the thousands who pass through, but nevertheless, frequent enough to give a potential participant pause. Dan Rather is quoted as saying: "The cure is worse than the disease."

For those civil libertarians opposed to any form of societal discipline as an infringement upon essential liberty, Dan Rather's reputed statement has weight. However, for the parent unbearably distraught with the endless tide of despair, and to the child with no place to go but tragedy, the coercion and restraint, the praise and reproval, clear cut concepts of right and wrong, and a healthy association with people similarly situated, are like an oasis in the desert to a thirst driven man.

The YMCA and Scout programs of America are institutions for leadership for which every American is thankful, but Straight, Inc. effects a transformation of the human spirit which equals the best of Dale Carnegie, Norman Vincent Peale, and the Boy Scouts of America. What has happened in Straight is nothing short of a miracle.

No doubt the same format is capable of fashioning minds to a wayward course, but for young people like the fictitious Joe Davenport, the mild force employed by Straight is a welcome alternative to the muddy waters in which they were

*File  
Straight*



**STRAIGHT**  
*A Direction for Youth*

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**CLINICAL DIRECTOR**

Miller Newton, Ph.D.

**DIRECTOR OF**

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November 2, 1983

160  
CT / FYI  
Copy -  
Carbon Turner  
file

14 NOV 1983

Mr. Nicholas E. Calio  
Washington Legal Foundation  
1612 K Street, NorthWest  
Suite 502  
Washington, D.C. 20006

Dear Mr. Calio:

Since my letter to you of October 11, we have had two more lawsuits filed against Straight. For your information and review, I have enclosed a copy of the complaint on each of those cases.

Please feel free to contact me if you have need of any further information.

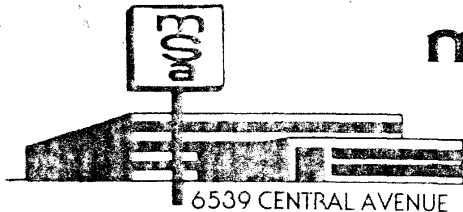
Sincerely,

  
William D. Oliver  
Executive Director

WDO:cls

Enclosures

cc: Betty and Mel Sembler ✓



# mel sembler associates

REAL ESTATE DEVELOPMENT •

SHOPPING CENTERS

6539 CENTRAL AVENUE •

ST. PETERSBURG, FLORIDA 33710 •

PHONE: (813) 381-3622

October 11, 1983

14 OCT 1983

Dr. Carlton E. Turner, Ph.D.  
Special Assistant to the President  
for Drug Abuse Policy  
The White House  
Washington, D.C.

Dear Carlton:

Thank you for your letter of the 26th and the accompanying article on Dr. Murdock Head.

I'm sure that Dr. Head would be able to make a valuable contribution to Straight.

Bill Oliver suggested to me that he contact Dr. Head directly about our Washington branch and possibly working with the Director of that program and will be following through with this very soon.

Best regards,

Mel Sembler

cc: Bill Oliver  
Dr. Mel Riddle, Washington program



MEMBER INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF SHOPPING CENTERS

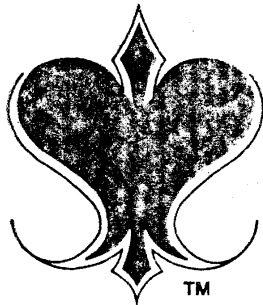
From the Desk of

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*Mel Sembler*

.....wanted to make sure you were aware that  
Straight will be featured on 20/20 the  
evening of Thursday, November 3rd.....





**STRAIGHT**  
*A Direction for Youth*

**STRAIGHT INC.**  
**Greater Washington**

**PROGRAM DIRECTOR**  
Mel J. Riddile, Ed.D.

January 3, 1983  
1509 Stirling Court  
Ft. Washington, MD 20744

Dr. Carlton E. Turner  
8218 Clifton Farm Ct. 6010 Clairborne Dr.  
Alexandria, VA 22300

Dear Friends,

As a result of your support STRAIGHT, Incorporated has come to the Greater Washington area. The doors were opened on the 28th of October 1982 and the program is alive and well. Our STRAIGHT families, and their children, are well into rebuilding healthy families and communities and we are very proud of what is being accomplished.

We would like to call your attention to the Metropolitan Washington area Barbershop choruses benefit to be given on Saturday, February 5, 1983, 8:00 p.m. at the DAR Constitution Hall. This should be a fantastic show highlighting all 10 Barbershop choruses and the infamous radio personalities, Harden and Weaver, as Masters of Ceremony. We are calling the show "Straight From the Heart." It promises to be a wonderful evening of entertainment.

We would be honored if you would attend and suggest you get in touch with Ticketron as soon as possible in order to get your choice of seating. Proceeds from ticket sales will help insure continued operation of STRAIGHT, Inc. in the Washington area. STRAIGHT's doors are always open to families in need of help, regardless of their financial situation.

We are enthusiastic about this opportunity to hear our local barbershop choruses and again to show our appreciation for your personal support.

Sincerely and with a lot of  
STRAIGHT family love,

*Anna Y. Beckett*

Anna Y. Beckett, Chair  
"Straight From the Heart" Benefit

**Straight, Inc. • P.O. Box 792 • Springfield, Virginia 22150 • (703) 642-1980**  
A non-profit family oriented drug-free rehabilitation program for the youthful drug abuser.