

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
FOI/PA  
DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET  
FOI/PA# 1223253-0

Total Deleted Page(s) = 44

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Page 370 ~ b3;

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX  
X Deleted Page(s) X  
X No Duplication Fee X

X For this Page X  
XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

February 15, 1994

## TITLE AND CHARACTER OF CASE

(RECLASSIFIED)

b6  
b7C

| DATE PROPERTY ACQUIRED | SOURCE FROM WHICH PROPERTY ACQUIRED |
|------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| February 08, 1994      | BALTIMORE DIVISION/ <div></div>     |

b6  
b7C  
b7D

LOCATION OF PROPERTY: ECR1

| ANTICIPATED DISPOSITION | ACQUIRING AGENT | CASE AGENT  |
|-------------------------|-----------------|-------------|
|                         | <div></div>     | <div></div> |

GRAND JURY MATERIAL - NO (DISSEMINATE ONLY PURSUANT TO RULE 6(E))

## DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY

BARCODE: E0598992

1B1; BOX OF DOCUMENTS INCLUDING ACCTS RECEIVABLE, REQUESTS  
FOR SERVICES, COLLECTION NOTICES FROM STRAIGHT FILES

*destroyed 9/1/94  
per memo dated 8/5/94*

FOR VALUABLES AND/OR NARCOTICS EVIDENCE ONLY  
TWO SPECIAL AGENTS VERIFYING AND SEALING BAG CONTENTSFIELD FILE NUMBER: TP/TP-0028810 (209B)  
OFFICE-OF-ORIGIN: TAMPA

*209B-N-28810-151*  
*U U*

*[Signature]*

March 21, 1994

## TITLE AND CHARACTER OF CASE



(RECLASSIFIED)

b6  
b7C

DATE PROPERTY ACQUIRED

March 03, 1994

SOURCE FROM WHICH PROPERTY ACQUIRED



(SEE SA ATT dated 3/16/94)

b6  
b7C

LOCATION OF PROPERTY: ECR1

ANTICIPATED DISPOSITION

ACQUIRING AGENT

SA  (FBI SA)

CASE AGENT



GRAND JURY MATERIAL - NO (DISSEMINATE ONLY PURSUANT TO RULE 6(E))

## DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY

BARCODE: E0806152

1B2; ONE BOX CONTAINING ONE BINDER CONTAINING INVESTIGATIVE  
REPORT PREPARED BY THE TEXAS COMMISSION ON ALCOHOL & DRUG ABUSE  
RE: STRAIGHT, INC.

FOR VALUABLES AND/OR NARCOTICS EVIDENCE ONLY

TWO SPECIAL AGENTS VERIFYING AND SEALING BAG CONTENTS

FIELD FILE NUMBER: TP/TP-0028810 (209B)

OFFICE-OF-ORIGIN: TAMPA

209B-W-28810-1B2  
44

KD

June 23, 1993

## TITLE AND CHARACTER OF CASE

(RECLASSIFIED)

b6  
b7CDATE PROPERTY ACQUIRED  
June 18, 1993

SOURCE FROM WHICH PROPERTY ACQUIRED

b6  
b7C  
b7D

LOCATION OF PROPERTY: ECR1

ANTICIPATED DISPOSITION

ACQUIRING AGENT

CASE AGENT

GRAND JURY MATERIAL - NO (DISSEMINATE ONLY PURSUANT TO RULE 6(E))

DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY

BARCODE: E0598023

1C1 COPIES OF INSURANCE DOCUMENTS

*destroyed 9/1/94 CFB*FOR VALUABLES AND/OR NARCOTICS EVIDENCE ONLY  
TWO SPECIAL AGENTS VERIFYING AND SEALING BAG CONTENTSFIELD FILE NUMBER: TP/TP-0028810 (209B)  
OFFICE-OF-ORIGIN: TAMPA

209B-TP-28810-1C1

|             |         |
|-------------|---------|
| SEARCHED    | INDEXED |
| SERIALIZED  | FILED   |
| JUN 23 1993 |         |
| FBI-TAMPA   |         |

FILE COPY

July 02, 1993

## TITLE AND CHARACTER OF CASE

(RECLASSIFIED)

b6  
b7CDATE PROPERTY ACQUIRED  
June 30, 1993

SOURCE FROM WHICH PROPERTY ACQUIRED

b6  
b7C

LOCATION OF PROPERTY: ECR1

ANTICIPATED DISPOSITION

ACQUIRING AGENT

CASE AGENT

GRAND JURY MATERIAL - NO (DISSEMINATE ONLY PURSUANT TO RULE 6(E))

## DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY

BARCODE: E0598027

1C2; REFUNDS CHECKS ACCT. RECORDS, CONTRACTS, PERSONNEL RECORDS.

*destroyed  
9/1/94 CFS*FOR VALUABLES AND/OR NARCOTICS EVIDENCE ONLY  
TWO SPECIAL AGENTS VERIFYING AND SEALING BAG CONTENTSFIELD FILE NUMBER: TP/TP-0028810 (209B)  
OFFICE-OF-ORIGIN: TAMPA

FILE COPY

209B-TP-28810-12

|             |         |
|-------------|---------|
| SEARCHED    | INDEXED |
| SERIALIZED  | FILED   |
| JUL 12 1993 |         |
| FBI-TAMPA   |         |

*[Signature]*

September 17, 1993

## TITLE AND CHARACTER OF CASE

(RECLASSIFIED)

b6  
b7CDATE PROPERTY ACQUIRED SOURCE FROM WHICH PROPERTY ACQUIRED  
September 08, 1993 

LOCATION OF PROPERTY: ECR1

b6  
b7C  
b7D

ANTICIPATED DISPOSITION ACQUIRING AGENT CASE AGENT

GRAND JURY MATERIAL - NO (DISSEMINATE ONLY PURSUANT TO RULE 6(E))

## DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY

BARCODE: E0598193  
1C3; INSURANCE FORMS CHARTS, SI CORRESPONDENCE LETTERS FROM  
EMPLOYEES AND OTHER GENERAL INFORMATION*destroyed  
9/11/94 CJB*FOR VALUABLES AND/OR NARCOTICS EVIDENCE ONLY  
TWO SPECIAL AGENTS VERIFYING AND SEALING BAG CONTENTSFIELD FILE NUMBER: TP/TP-0028810 (209B)  
OFFICE-OF-ORIGIN: TAMPA*209B-TP-28810-1C<sup>3</sup>  
UG V6**CM***FILE COPY**

November 30, 1993

## TITLE AND CHARACTER OF CASE

(RECLASSIFIED)

b6  
b7Cb3  
b6  
b7C

DATE PROPERTY ACQUIRED SOURCE FROM WHICH PROPERTY ACQUIRED

LOCATION OF PROPERTY: ECR1

b6  
b7C

ANTICIPATED DISPOSITION

ACQUIRING AGENT

CASE AGENT

GRAND JURY MATERIAL - YES (DISSEMINATE ONLY PURSUANT TO RULE 6(E))

DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY

BARCODE: E0598408

1C4;

*destroyed  
9/1/94 CFB*

b3

FOR VALUABLES AND/OR NARCOTICS EVIDENCE ONLY  
TWO SPECIAL AGENTS VERIFYING AND SEALING BAG CONTENTSFIELD FILE NUMBER: TP/TP-0028810 (209B)  
OFFICE-OF-ORIGIN: TAMPA*209B-TP-28810-K4  
U U**nl.*



December 27, 1993

## TITLE AND CHARACTER OF CASE

(RECLASSIFIED)

b6  
b7C

b3

DATE PROPERTY ACQUIRED SOURCE FROM WHICH PROPERTY ACQUIRED

LOCATION OF PROPERTY: ECR1

b6  
b7C

ANTICIPATED DISPOSITION

ACQUIRING AGENT

CASE AGENT

GRAND JURY MATERIAL - YES (DISSEMINATE ONLY PURSUANT TO RULE 6(E))

## DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY

BARCODE: E0598482

1C5; *destroyed 9/1/94 CFB*

b3

FOR VALUABLES AND/OR NARCOTICS EVIDENCE ONLY  
TWO SPECIAL AGENTS VERIFYING AND SEALING BAG CONTENTSFIELD FILE NUMBER: TP/TP-0028810 (209B)  
OFFICE-OF-ORIGIN: TAMPA

209B-TP-28810-105  
14 14  
H

December 27, 1993

## TITLE AND CHARACTER OF CASE

[REDACTED]

(RECLASSIFIED)

b6  
b7C

b3

DATE PROPERTY ACQUIRED SOURCE FROM WHICH PROPERTY ACQUIRED

[REDACTED]

LOCATION OF PROPERTY: ECRI

b6  
b7C

ANTICIPATED DISPOSITION

ACQUIRING AGENT

CASE AGENT

[REDACTED]

GRAND JURY MATERIAL - YES (DISSEMINATE ONLY PURSUANT TO RULE 6(E))

DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY

BARCODE: E0598483

1C6; [REDACTED]

*destroyed 9/1/94 CAB*

b3

FOR VALUABLES AND/OR NARCOTICS EVIDENCE ONLY  
TWO SPECIAL AGENTS VERIFYING AND SEALING BAG CONTENTS

FIELD FILE NUMBER: TP/TP-0028810 (209B)  
OFFICE-OF-ORIGIN: TAMPA

*209B-TP-28810-1C6*  
*Uy Uy*

*21*

December 27, 1993

## TITLE AND CHARACTER OF CASE

(RECLASSIFIED)

b6  
b7C

b3

DATE PROPERTY ACQUIRED

SOURCE FROM WHICH PROPERTY ACQUIRED  
AUSA

LOCATION OF PROPERTY: ECR1

b6  
b7C

ANTICIPATED DISPOSITION

ACQUIRING AGENT

CASE AGENT

GRAND JURY MATERIAL - YES (DISSEMINATE ONLY PURSUANT TO RULE 6(E))

## DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY

BARCODE: E0598484

1C7;

*destroyed  
9/1/94 CJB*

b3

FOR VALUABLES AND/OR NARCOTICS EVIDENCE ONLY  
TWO SPECIAL AGENTS VERIFYING AND SEALING BAG CONTENTSFIELD FILE NUMBER: TP/TP-0028810 (209B)  
OFFICE-OF-ORIGIN: TAMPA

209B-TP-28810-1C7

SEARCHED INDEXED  
SERIALIZED FILED  
DEC 27 1993  
FBI - TAMPA

21

January 10, 1994

## TITLE AND CHARACTER OF CASE

(RECLASSIFIED)

b6  
b7C

b3

DATE PROPERTY ACQUIRED SOURCE FROM WHICH PROPERTY ACQUIRED

LOCATION OF PROPERTY: ECR1

b6  
b7C

ANTICIPATED DISPOSITION

ACQUIRING AGENT

CASE AGENT

GRAND JURY MATERIAL - YES (DISSEMINATE ONLY PURSUANT TO RULE 6(E))

DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY

BARCODE: E0598872

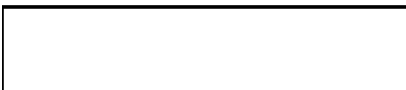
1C8; *destroyed  
9/1/94 CFB*

b3

FOR VALUABLES AND/OR NARCOTICS EVIDENCE ONLY  
TWO SPECIAL AGENTS VERIFYING AND SEALING BAG CONTENTSFIELD FILE NUMBER: TP/TP-0028810 (209B)  
OFFICE-OF-ORIGIN: TAMPA*209B-TP-28810-1C8  
44**alh*

February 09, 1994

## TITLE AND CHARACTER OF CASE



(RECLASSIFIED)

b6  
b7c

DATE PROPERTY ACQUIRED

January 31, 1994

SOURCE FROM WHICH PROPERTY ACQUIRED

AUSA

LOCATION OF PROPERTY: ECRL

b6  
b7c

ANTICIPATED DISPOSITION

ACQUIRING AGENT

CASE AGENT

GRAND JURY MATERIAL - NO (DISSEMINATE ONLY PURSUANT TO RULE 6(E))

DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY

BARCODE: E0598983

1C9; COPIES OF BOARD MINUTES, FINANCIAL STATEMENT 9/30/91

*destroyed 9/1/94 CFB*

FOR VALUABLES AND/OR NARCOTICS EVIDENCE ONLY

TWO SPECIAL AGENTS VERIFYING AND SEALING BAG CONTENTS

FIELD FILE NUMBER: TP/TP-0028810 (209B)

OFFICE-OF-ORIGIN: TAMPA

*209B-TP-28810-1C9*  
*u u**MD*

March 09, 1994

## TITLE AND CHARACTER OF CASE



(RECLASSIFIED)

b6  
b7CDATE PROPERTY ACQUIRED  
March 08, 1994SOURCE FROM WHICH PROPERTY ACQUIRED  
NATIONS BANK

LOCATION OF PROPERTY: ECR1

b6  
b7C

ANTICIPATED DISPOSITION

ACQUIRING AGENT

CASE AGENT



GRAND JURY MATERIAL - NO (DISSEMINATE ONLY PURSUANT TO RULE 6(E))

## DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY

BARCODE: E0806115

1C10; RECORDS FROM NCNB - SIGNATURE CARDS, CORP. RESOLUTIONS  
COPIES FROM CASH MANAGEMENT ACCOUNT*destroyed  
5/1/94 [signature]*FOR VALUABLES AND/OR NARCOTICS EVIDENCE ONLY  
TWO SPECIAL AGENTS VERIFYING AND SEALING BAG CONTENTSFIELD FILE NUMBER: TP/TP-0028810 (209B)  
OFFICE-OF-ORIGIN: TAMPA*209B-TP-28810-1C<sup>10</sup>  
[signature]**[signature]*

April 15, 1994

## TITLE AND CHARACTER OF CASE

(RECLASSIFIED)

b6  
b7C

DATE PROPERTY ACQUIRED SOURCE FROM WHICH PROPERTY ACQUIRED

April 12, 1994

b6  
b7C  
b7D

LOCATION OF PROPERTY: ECR1

ANTICIPATED DISPOSITION ACQUIRING AGENT CASE AGENT

GRAND JURY MATERIAL - NO (DISSEMINATE ONLY PURSUANT TO RULE 6(E))

DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY

BARCODE: E0806198

.C11;

b7D

*destroyed  
9/11/94 C 728*OR VALUABLES AND/OR NARCOTICS EVIDENCE ONLY  
NO SPECIAL AGENTS VERIFYING AND SEALING BAG CONTENTSFIELD FILE NUMBER: TP/TP-0028810 (209B)  
OFFICE-OF-ORIGIN: TAMPA*209B-W-28810-1C"  
UG UG**HP*

May 05, 1994

## TITLE AND CHARACTER OF CASE

(RECLASSIFIED)

b6  
b7c

b3

DATE PROPERTY ACQUIRED SOURCE FROM WHICH PROPERTY ACQUIRED

LOCATION OF PROPERTY: ECR1

b6  
b7c

ANTICIPATED DISPOSITION

ACQUIRING AGENT

CASE AGENT

GRAND JURY MATERIAL - YES (DISSEMINATE ONLY PURSUANT TO RULE 6(E))

DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY

BARCODE: E0806267

1C12;

*destroyed 9/1/94 CFB*

b3

FOR VALUABLES AND/OR NARCOTICS EVIDENCE ONLY  
TWO SPECIAL AGENTS VERIFYING AND SEALING BAG CONTENTSFIELD FILE NUMBER: TP/TP-0028810 (209B)  
OFFICE-OF-ORIGIN: TAMPA*209B-TP-28810-1C12*  
*dy dy**MS*



Date 2/2/93

☐ Birth ☐ Credit ☐ Criminal ☐ Death ☐ INS ☐ Marriage\* ☐ Motor Vehicle ☒ Other ☐ Driver's License

|   |  |                                 |
|---|--|---------------------------------|
| To  | <div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 200px; height: 60px;"></div> | Buded                           |
| Return to   |  | File number<br><u>196 B new</u> |
| Name and aliases of subject, applicant, or employee, and spouse |  |                                 |

b6  
b7C

|           |                              |                          |
|-----------|------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Addresses | <u>Straight Incorporated</u> |                          |
| Residence | <u>Corp offices</u>          | <u>ST Petersburg Fla</u> |
| Business  |                              |                          |
| Former    |                              |                          |
|           |                              |                          |
|           |                              |                          |

\*Date and place of marriage \_\_\_\_\_  
(if applicable)

|                              |   |                            |        |                    |      |                        |
|------------------------------|---|----------------------------|--------|--------------------|------|------------------------|
| Race                         | Sex<br><input type="checkbox"/> Male<br><input type="checkbox"/> Female | Age                        | Height | Weight             | Hair | Eyes                   |
| Birth date                   |   | Birthplace                 |        |                    |      |                        |
| Arrest Number                |   | Fingerprint classification |        | Criminal specialty |      |                        |
| Specific information desired |   |                            |        |                    |      | Social Security Number |

Results of check

- corporate check
- civil cases
- Background on owners / Management team

209 B. TP 28810-F1  
196 B =

*see info attached*

b6  
b7C

|            |         |
|------------|---------|
| SEARCHED   | INDEXED |
| SERIALIZED | FILED   |
| FEB 4 1993 |         |
| FBI TAMPA  |         |

*please assign lead to [redacted]  
lead covered 2/22/93*

2/23/93

FLORIDA DIVISION OF CORPORATIONS  
INQUIRY BY CORPORATE NAME

12:32 AM

| DOCUMENT # | STATUS/TYPE | CORPORATE NAME                                 |
|------------|-------------|--|
| 1. 735636  | NAME HS     | STRAIGHT, INC.                                 |
| 2. N11318  | ACT         | STRAIGHT, INC.                                 |
| 3. 196658  | INACT       | STRAIGHT CORP -THE-                            |
| 4. 696159  | INACT       | STRAIGHT AHEAD, INC.                           |
| 5. J15901  | ACT         | STRAIGHT AHEAD BUILDERS, INC.                  |
| 6. 740156  | INACT       | STRAIGHT AMERICA CORPORATION, INC.             |
| 7. V17063  | ACT         | STRAIGHT A NOTES AND STUDY GUIDES, INC.        |
| 8. N28911  | INACT       | STRAIGHT A REWARD, INC.                        |
| 9. 400570  | ACT         | STRAIGHT ARROW, INC.                           |
| 10. 679948 | INACT       | STRAIGHT ARROW AIR FREIGHT CORPORATION         |
| 11. L19387 | ACT         | STRAIGHT ARROW AUTOMOBILE SERVICE CENTER, INC. |
| 12. F42240 | ACT         | STRAIGHT ARROW CITRUS, INC.                    |
| 13. H59717 | ACT         | STRAIGHT ARROW INSTALLATIONS, INC.             |
| 14. 420166 | INACT       | STRAIGHT ARROW INVESTMENT CORP                 |
| 15. L86616 | INACT       | STRAIGHT ARROW PUBLICATIONS, INC.              |
| 16. K35152 | INACT       | STRAIGHT A'S, INC.                             |
| 17. K20553 | INACT       | STRAIGHT A'S PRODUCTIONS, INC.                 |

Enter Number to View Detail or '+' Next, '-' PREV, 'M' Return to Menu

--- THIS IS NOT OFFICIAL RECORD; SEE DOCUMENTS IF QUESTIONS OR CONFLICT ---

ENTER SELECTION AND <CR>:

Alt-Z FOR HELP3 3270/950 3 FDX 3 2400 E71 3 LOG CLOSED 3 PRINT OFF 3 ON-LINE

2/23/93

CORPORATE DETAIL RECORD SCREEN

12:33 AM

NUM: 735636 ST:FL ACTIVE/FL NON-PROF FLD: 04/22/1976

LAST: REINSTATEMENT

FLD: 03/31/1992

FEI#: 59-1662427

NAME : THE STRAIGHT FOUNDATION, INC.

NH: 1

PRINCIPAL: C/O

CHANGED: 03/31/92

ADDRESS 6529 CENTRAL AVENUE  
ST. PETERSBURG, FL 33710

b6  
b7c

RA NAME :  
RA ADDR : 6529 CENTRAL AVENUE  
ST. PETERSBURG, FL 33710

NAME CHG: 03/31/92

ADDR CHG: 03/31/92

ANN REP : (1990) I 03/31/92 (1991) I 03/31/92 (1992) I 03/31/92

2/23/93 OFFICER/DIRECTOR DETAIL SCREEN 12:36 PM  
CORP NUMBER: 735636 CORP NAME: THE STRAIGHT FOUNDATION, INC.  
TITLE: PD NAME: [REDACTED]

b6  
b7c

6529 CENTRAL AVENUE  
ST. PETERSBURG, FL  
TITLE: VD NAME: [REDACTED]  
101 EAST KENNEDY BL., 2560  
TAMPA, FL

TITLE: SD NAME: [REDACTED]  
4000 PARK STREET NORTH  
ST. PETERSBURG, FL

TITLE: TD NAME: [REDACTED]  
100 SECOND AVENUE S., 400  
ST. PETERSBURG, FL

TITLE: D NAME: [REDACTED]  
555 SECAUCUS ROAD  
SECAUCUS, NJ

TITLE: D NAME: [REDACTED]  
100 S. ASHLEY DRIVE  
TAMPA, FL

+ NEXT, - PREV, 1. MENU, 2. FILING, 3. TOP, 4. EVENTS, 5. NOTES, 6. NAMES  
7. LIST, 8. NEXT BY LIST, 9. PREV BY LIST  
THIS IS THE END OF THE LIST  
ENTER SELECTION AND <CR>:

Alt-Z FOR HELP3 3270/950 3 FDX 3 2400 E71 3 LOG CLOSED 3 PRINT OFF 3 ON-LINE

2/23/93 CORPORATE DETAIL RECORD SCREEN 12:36 AM  
NUM: N11318 ST: FL ACTIVE/FL NON-PROF FLD: 09/26/1985  
LAST: REINSTATEMENT FLD: 02/08/1993  
FEI#: 59-2576433

NAME : STRAIGHT, INC.  
PRINCIPAL: 3001 GANDY BLVD.  
ADDRESS ST. PETERSBURG, FL 33702

RA NAME : [REDACTED]  
RA ADDR : 3001 GANDY BLVD.  
ST PETERSBURG, FL 33702 US

NAME CHG: 04/17/91  
ADDR CHG: 04/17/91

b6  
b7c

ANN REP : (1991) I 04/17/91 (1992) IN 02/08/93 (1993) IN 02/08/93

1. MENU, 3. OFFICERS, 4. EVENTS, 7. LIST, 8. NEXT, 9. PREV  
----- THIS IS NOT OFFICIAL RECORD; SEE DOCUMENTS IF QUESTION OR CONFLICT -----  
ENTER SELECTION AND <CR>:  
Alt-Z FOR HELP3 3270/950 3 FDX 3 2400 E71 3 LOG CLOSED 3 PRINT OFF 3 ON-LINE

2/23/93 OFFICER/DIRECTOR DETAIL SCREEN 12:36 AM  
CORP NUMBER: N11318 CORP NAME: STRAIGHT, INC.  
TITLE: VSTD NAME: [REDACTED]

b6  
b7c

296 MIRROR LAKE DR.  
ST. PETERSBURG, FL

TITLE: VD NAME: [REDACTED]  
3001 GANDY BLVD.  
ST. PETERSBURG, FL

TITLE: PD NAME: [REDACTED]  
442 RAYMOND AVE.  
LONGWOOD, FL

+ NEXT, - PREV, 1. MENU, 2. FILING, 3. TOP, 4. EVENT  
7. LIST, 8. NEXT BY LIST, 9. PREV BY LIST

----- THIS IS NOT OFFICIAL RECORD; SEE DOCUMENTS IF QUESTION OR CONFLICT -----  
ENTER SELECTION AND <CR>:

Alt-Z FOR HELP3 3270/950 3 FDX 3 2400 E71 3 LOG CLOSED 3 PRINT OFF 3 ON-LINE

2/23/93

CORPORATE DETAIL RECORD SCREEN

12:37 AM

NUM: N11318

ST:FL ACTIVE/FL NON-PROF

FLD: 09/26/1985

LAST: REINSTATEMENT

FLD: 02/08/1993

FEI#: 59-2576433

NAME : STRAIGHT, INC.

PRINCIPAL: 3001 GANDY BLVD.

ADDRESS ST. PETERSBURG, FL 33702

RA NAME :

NAME CHG: 04/17/91

RA ADDR : 3001 GANDY BLVD.

ADDR CHG: 04/17/91

ST PETESBURG, FL 33702 US

ANN REP : (1991) I 04/17/91 (1992) IN 02/08/93 (1993) IN 02/08/93

b6  
b7c

1. MENU, 3. OFFICERS, 4. EVENTS, 7. LIST, 8. NEXT, 9. PREV

----- THIS IS NOT OFFICIAL RECORD; SEE DOCUMENTS IF QUESTION OR CONFLICT -----  
ENTER SELECTION AND <CR>:

Alt-Z FOR HELP3 3270/950 3 FDX 3 2400 E71 3 LOG CLOSED 3 PRINT OFF 3 ON-LINE

2/23/93

EVENT DETAIL SCREEN

12:37 AM

CORP NUMBER: N11318

CORP STATUS: ACTIVE

FILED DATE : 09/26/1985

CORP NAME : STRAIGHT, INC.

| EVENT TYPE                             | FILED<br>DATE | EFFECTIVE<br>DATE | DESCRIPTION |
|--|---------------|-------------------|-------------|
| REINSTATEMENT                          | 02/08/1993    |                   |             |
| ADMIN DISSOLUTION<br>FOR ANNUAL REPORT | 10/09/1992    |                   |             |
| AMENDMENT                              | 06/25/1990    |                   |             |

+ NEXT, 1. MENU, 2. FILING, 3. OFFICERS, 4. TOP

7. LIST, 8. NEXT BY LIST, 9. PREV BY LIST

----- THIS IS NOT OFFICIAL RECORD; SEE DOCUMENTS IF QUESTION OR CONFLICT -----  
ENTER SELECTION AND <CR>:

Alt-Z FOR HELP3 3270/950 3 FDX 3 2400 E71 3 LOG CLOSED 3 PRINT OFF 3 ON-LINE

2/23/93

CORPORATE DETAIL RECORD SCREEN

12:38 AM

NUM: 196658

ST:FL INACTIVE/FL PROFIT

FLD: 10/09/1956

LAST: DISSOLVED BY PROCLAMATION

FLD: 04/18/1961

NAME : STRAIGHT CORP -THE-

ANN REP : \* NONE FILED \*

1. MENU, 4. EVENTS, 7. LIST, 8. NEXT, 9. PREV

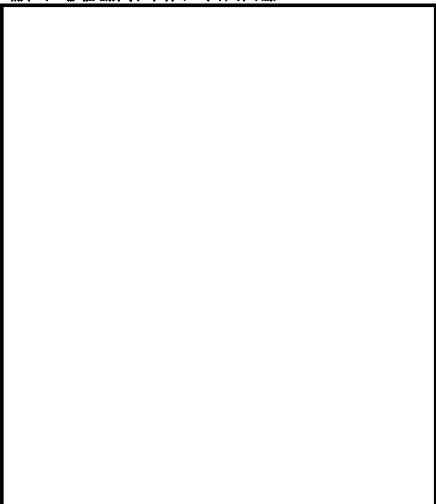
----- THIS IS NOT OFFICIAL RECORD; SEE DOCUMENTS IF QUESTION OR CONFLICT -----  
ENTER SELECTION AND <CR>:

Alt-Z FOR HELP3 3270/950 3 FDX 3 2400 E71 3 LOG CLOSED 3 PRINT OFF 3 ON-LINE

2/23/93

FLORIDA DIVISION OF CORPORATIONS  
INQUIRY BY OFFICER/REGISTERED AGENT

12:39 AM

|     | OFFICER/RA NAME  | DOCUMENT # | BUS. ENTITY                       |
|-----|--|------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1.  |  | 677754     | SW BROWARD SCANNIN <sup>b6</sup>  |
| 2.  |  | F36106     | HOLMES COUNTY HOSP <sup>b7C</sup> |
| 3.  |  | 413533     | GATEWAY HOSPITAL C                |
| 4.  |  | 396705     | LAKE HOSPITAL CORP                |
| 5.  |  | 488187     | HOME HEALTH PROFES                |
| 6.  |  | 618803     | GATEWAY MEDICAL MA                |
| 7.  |  | 626029     | SENTINEL MEDICAL C                |
| 8.  |  | 626048     | LAKE COMMUNITY HOS                |
| 9.  |  | 630326     | ORGANIZATIONAL MAN                |
| 10. |  | 659222     | GATEWAY MEDICAL CE                |
| 11. |  | F13205     | GATEWAY HEALTH SER                |
| 12. |  | F22021     | U.S. HEALTH CORPOR                |
| 13. |  | F22022     | U.S. HEALTH MANAGE                |
| 14. |  | F36105     | PEMBROKE PINES HOS                |
| 15. |  | F45557     | COMMUNITY HOSPITAL                |
| 16. |  | F82800     | COURTLAND REGIONAL                |
| 17. |  | F86864     | MID-FLORIDA REHABI                |

Enter Number to View Detail or '+' Next, '-' PREV, 'M' Return to Menu


--- THIS IS NOT OFFICIAL RECORD; SEE DOCUMENTS IF QUESTIONS OR CONFLICT ---  
ENTER SELECTION AND <CR>:

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2/23/93

FLORIDA DIVISION OF CORPORATIONS  
INQUIRY BY OFFICER/REGISTERED AGENT

12:40 AM

|     | OFFICER/RA NAME   | DOCUMENT #   | BUS. ENTITY                       |
|-----|---|--------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1.  |  | B04111       | SUMTER COMMUNITY <sup>b6</sup>    |
| 2.  |   | G21584       | HEARD COMMUNITY HC <sup>b7C</sup> |
| 3.  |   | G96761       | THE FABRIC HUT, IN                |
| 4.  |   | 488187       | HOME HEALTH PROFES                |
| 5.  |   | G96761       | THE FABRIC HUT, IN                |
| 6.  |   | 429394       | GATEWAY HOSPITAL M                |
| 7.  |   | G18749       | JENKINS COMMUNITY                 |
| 8.  |   | H58937       | HOSPITAL LIQUIDATI                |
| 9.  |   | H66898       | B R B PROPERTIES,                 |
| 10. |   | P93000009164 | COQUI ENTERPRISES,                |
| 11. |   | H66898       | B R B PROPERTIES,                 |
| 12. |   | K96899       | GRAND OPENINGS STU                |
| 13. |   | 729818       | ZION LUTHERAN CHUR                |
| 14. |   | S33672       | INTERNATIONAL FOOD                |
| 15. |   | 723988       | THE DADELAND CIVIT                |
| 16. |   | C10058       | COCONUT GROVE LODG                |
| 17. |   | 709462       | PARKWOOD BAPTIST C                |


--- THIS IS NOT OFFICIAL RECORD; SEE DOCUMENTS IF QUESTIONS OR CONFLICT ---  
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Alt-Z FOR HELP3 3270/950 3 FDX 3 2400 E71 3 LOG CLOSED 3 PRINT OFF 3 ON-LINE

2/23/93

FLORIDA DIVISION OF CORPORATIONS  
INQUIRY BY OFFICER/REGISTERED AGENT

12:41 AM

|     | OFFICER/RA NAME   | DOCUMENT # | BUS. ENTITY        |
|-----|---|------------|--------------------|
| 1.  |  | 560045     | PASCO 15, INC.     |
| 2.  |   | N04927     | THE SANCTUARY AT C |
| 3.  |   | N39750     | JERRY BARLETTA LOD |
| 4.  |   | 560045     | PASCO 15, INC.     |
| 5.  |   | N11318     | STRAIGHT, INC.     |
| 6.  |   | P33685     | CONAM INSPECTION.  |
| 7.  |   | M88501     | THE TWO FRANK'S, I |
| 8.  |   | 827204     | JOHNS-MANVILLE IRR |
| 9.  |   | 732230     | KIDNEY FOUNDATION  |
| 10. |   | 828259     | SALES CONSULTANTS, |
| 11. |   | 835410     | MANAGEMENT RECRUIT |
| 12. |   | 714791     | CATHOLIC SOCIAL SE |
| 13. |   | 642273     | TEDE ENTERPRISES,  |
| 14. |   | 546049     | TEDE ENTERPRISES,  |
| 15. |   | 546049     | TEDE ENTERPRISES,  |
| 16. |   | 642273     | TEDE ENTERPRISES,  |
| 17. |   | 642273     | TEDE ENTERPRISES,  |

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Enter Number to View Detail or '+' Next, '-' PREV, 'M' Return to Menu

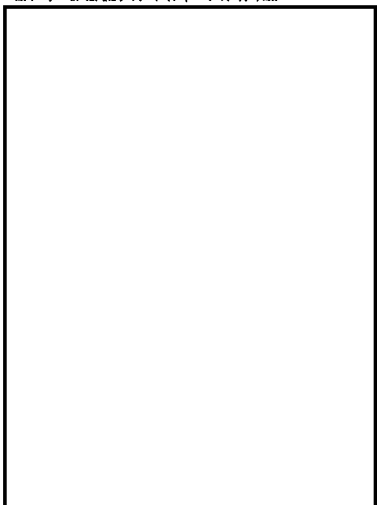
--- THIS IS NOT OFFICIAL RECORD; SEE DOCUMENTS IF QUESTIONS OR CONFLICT ---  
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2/23/93

FLORIDA DIVISION OF CORPORATIONS  
INQUIRY BY OFFICER/REGISTERED AGENT

12:42 AM

|     | OFFICER/RA NAME   | DOCUMENT # | BUS. ENTITY        |
|-----|---|------------|--------------------|
| 1.  |  | 484019     | EMERGENCY MEDICINE |
| 2.  |   | 371024     | BRAKEMASTER, INC.  |
| 3.  |   | 374986     | NOVA ENGINE REBUIL |
| 4.  |   | 494272     | HOSPITAL ANCILLARY |
| 5.  |   | 561149     | LAKEVIEW COMMUNITY |
| 6.  |   | 669166     | TEE-RIFIC, INC.    |
| 7.  |   | 852593     | ENTERPRISE 2000, I |
| 8.  |   | M88261     | TWO L & S JANITORI |
| 9.  |   | V34676     | FANTASY DISTRIBUTO |
| 10. |   | 184010     | CHECKER CAB CO. OF |
| 11. |   | 740135     | KIWANIS CLUB OF SO |
| 12. |   | 751765     | NORTHWEST FLORIDA  |
| 13. |   | K40723     | POUR MOI? OF FLA., |
| 14. |   | 464512     | JUNIOR ASSOCIATES, |
| 15. |   | 464512     | JUNIOR ASSOCIATES, |
| 16. |   | 518907     | LEE POLYLUBE CORP. |
| 17. |   | 518907     | LEE POLYLUBE CORP. |

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Enter Number to View Detail or '+' Next, '-' PREV, 'M' Return to Menu

--- THIS IS NOT OFFICIAL RECORD; SEE DOCUMENTS IF QUESTIONS OR CONFLICT ---  
ENTER SELECTION AND <CR>

Alt-Z FOR HELP3 3270/950 3 FDX 3 2400 E71 3 LOG CLOSED 3 PRINT OFF 3 ON-LINE

- 1 -

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription 3/2/93

[redacted]  
[redacted] telephone number [redacted] Date of Birth (DOB) [redacted]  
[redacted] was advised of the identity of the  
interviewing agent and the purpose of the interview. [redacted]  
then made available the following information.

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[redacted]  
[redacted]  
[redacted]

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[redacted] The system  
supported at STRAIGHT, INC. was established by [redacted] A  
client would first sign a contract with STRAIGHT, INC. regarding  
the method of payment to be provided to their account. The first  
and second month required down payments of \$5,000.00 followed by  
subsequent payments of \$250.00 monthly. Even if the patient did  
terminate his association with the program, the family or  
responsible party had to fulfill the contract. It is [redacted]  
opinion that the management at STRAIGHT, INC. misused and  
mismanaged these funds.

[redacted]  
STRAIGHT, INC., client refunds in 1990 totaled \$500,000.00. The  
Accounting Department was getting numerous calls from patients  
throughout the country regarding refund of their insurance  
payment. So many in fact [redacted] hired a  
receptionist to field these calls. Clients usually were refunded  
their money if and only if they threatened to sue or had hired an  
attorney to secure their insurance payments.

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[redacted] the salaries of management were  
high, they were receiving high bonuses, utilizing the company  
credit cards for personal use [redacted]  
[redacted]

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Investigation on 2/13/93 at [redacted] File # 196B-NEW  
by SA [redacted] nja Date dictated 2/13/93

196B-TP-28810

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196B-TP-288D-1R

BTI FILED BTI

MAR 2 1995

CLP



*[Handwritten signature]*

w/c sent

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196B-NEW

Continuation of FD-302 of [REDACTED], On 2/13/93, Page 2

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[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] the management team responsible  
for the day-to-day operations included [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] STRAIGHT, INC. may be paying some  
families back their insurance refunds at this time.

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[REDACTED] when the California STRAIGHT, INC.  
program was opened, top management took ski lessons prior to the  
trip to California, spent most of the weekends skiing, and took  
their family members with them on the trip, although the company  
was unable to pay their bills at this time. On their way home  
from California, most of the individuals went to Las Vegas and  
used their business credit cards for this trip.

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O 142138Z APR 93

FM FBI TAMPA (196B-TP-28810) (PRA) (P)

TO DIRECTOR FBI/IMMEDIATE/

BT

UNCLAS

CITE: //3880:1280//

PASS: HQ ATTN DAD JAMES FRIER, CID.

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SUBJECT: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] STRAIGHT, INC., GANDY BOULEVARD, ST.

PETERSBURG, FLORIDA; FBW - INSURANCE; OO: TAMPA.

RE TELCON BETWEEN DAD FRIER AND SAC MCCREIGHT, INSTANT  
DATE.

FOR INFORMATION OF FBIHQ, THIS CASE WAS INITIATED  
FOLLOWING RECEIPT OF A REFERRAL FROM THE UNITED STATES  
ATTORNEY'S OFFICE, MIDDLE DISTRICT OF FLORIDA. THE CIVIL  
DIVISION OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY'S OFFICE HAD RECENTLY

196B-TP-28810-2  
SEARCHED \_\_\_\_\_  
INDEXED \_\_\_\_\_  
SERIALIZED 1001  
FILED 1001  
CIA [REDACTED] *[Signature]*

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b7C

PAGE TWO DE FRITP 0005 UNCLAS

FILED A CIVIL ACTION AGAINST [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] SEEKING TO COLLECT

APPROXIMATELY \$950,000 OWED TO MEDICARE. THE CIVIL CASE AROSE WHEN MEDICARE'S FISCAL INTERMEDIARY MADE AN OBVIOUS AND GROSS MATHEMATICAL ERROR AND MISTAKENLY PAID THIS MONEY TO A DISSOLVED CORPORATION OF WHICH [REDACTED] AND [REDACTED] WERE DIRECTORS AND TRUSTEES. RATHER THAN RETURN THE MONEY, THEY POCKETED THE FUNDS. THIS CASE RECEIVED PUBLICITY IN THE ST. PETERSBURG TIMES NEWSPAPER, ST. PETERSBURG, FLORIDA, WHICH RESULTED IN CONTACT FROM MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY REGARDING OTHER ONGOING FRAUD COMMITTED BY [REDACTED] AGAINST STRAIGHT, INC.

STRAIGHT, INC., IS A NON-PROFIT ADOLESCENT SUBSTANCE ABUSE TREATMENT ORGANIZATION HEADQUARTERED IN ST. PETERSBURG, FLORIDA, WITH FACILITIES THROUGHOUT THE UNITED STATES. AT ITS PRIME, STRAIGHT, INC., HAD TEN PROGRAMS THROUGHOUT THE UNITED STATES AND CANADA, AND 14 SATELLITE OFFICES. ONLY ONE REMAINING FACILITY LOCATED IN ATLANTA IS IN OPERATION.

PARENTS OF THE ADOLESCENTS WITH A SUBSTANCE ABUSE PROBLEM WERE REQUIRED TO PAY ANYWHERE FROM \$14,000 TO \$19,000 TO STRAIGHT, INC., FOR AN 18-MONTH COURSE OF TREATMENT AT THE

PAGE THREE DE FBTP 0005 UNCLAS

TIME OF ADMISSION. THE PARENTS WERE REQUIRED TO ASSIGN THEIR INTEREST IN THEIR INSURANCE CLAIM TO STRAIGHT, INC. STRAIGHT, INC., WOULD THEN SUBMIT THE CLAIMS TO THE VARIOUS INSURANCE COMPANIES FOR PAYMENT. INSTEAD OF REIMBURSING THE PARENTS WHEN THE PAYMENTS FROM THE INSURANCE COMPANIES WERE RECEIVED BY STRAIGHT, THIS MONEY WAS UTILIZED FOR PAYROLL AND OPERATING CAPITAL FOR STRAIGHT, INC. MANY TIMES WHEN THE INSURANCE COMPANY FAILED TO NOTIFY THE PARENTS OF THEIR REIMBURSEMENT TO STRAIGHT, INC., STRAIGHT, INC., DID NOT NOTIFY THE PARENTS THAT STRAIGHT HAD RECEIVED A PAYMENT FOR THE SAME SERVICES. REIMBURSEMENT ONLY OCCURRED TO PARENTS WHEN THEY THREATENED TO EITHER SUE OR CONTACT THEIR LOCAL CONGRESSMAN.

FROM 1988 TO 1990, STRAIGHT, INC., WAS EXPERIENCING SEVERE CASH FLOW DIFFICULTIES. AN EXPLANATION FOR THESE DIFFICULTIES CAN BE ATTRIBUTED TO OVER EXPANSION, A DECREASE IN PATIENT ADMISSIONS, SEVERAL LARGE SETTLEMENTS REGARDING TREATMENT OF THE PATIENTS, AND THE MISMANAGEMENT OF FUNDS.

STRAIGHT, INC., DID LAY OFF NUMEROUS EMPLOYEES AND INSTITUTED A FIVE PERCENT REDUCTION FOR ALL CURRENT EMPLOYEES. INTERVIEWS CONDUCTED TO DATE DETERMINED THAT WHILE THESE

PAGE FOUR DE FBTP 0005 UNCLAS

REDUCTIONS WERE INSTITUTED, THE MANAGERS OF THE ORGANIZATION,

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[REDACTED]

CONTINUED TO RECEIVE HIGH SALARIES, NUMEROUS BONUSES AND  
UTILIZED THE COMPANY CREDIT CARDS FOR PERSONAL USE -- TO  
INCLUDE TRAVEL TO LAS VEGAS, "BIKINI WAXING" DINNERS, AND  
OTHER TRAVEL EXPENSES TO INCLUDE A SKI TRIP TO CALIFORNIA.

ON APRIL 2, 1992, A FEDERAL GRAND JURY SUBPOENA FROM THE  
MIDDLE DISTRICT OF FLORIDA WAS SERVED [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

FBIHQ WILL BE NOTIFIED OF DEVELOPMENTS IN THIS  
INVESTIGATION AS THEY OCCUR.

BT

#0005

NNNN

FBI

## TRANSMIT VIA:

☒ Teletype  
☐ Facsimile  
☐ AIRTEL

## PRECEDENCE:

☒ Immediate  
☐ Priority  
☐ Routine

## CLASSIFICATION:

☐ TOP SECRET  
☐ SECRET  
☐ CONFIDENTIAL  
☐ UNCLAS E F T O  
☒ UNCLAS

Date 4/14/93FM FBI TAMPA (196B-TP-28810) (PRA) (P)

TO DIRECTOR FBI/IMMEDIATE/

BT

UNCLAS

CITE: //3880:1280//

PASS: HQ ATTN DAD <sup>JAMES</sup> FRIER, CIDb6  
b7CSUBJECT:  STRAIGHT, INC., GANDY BOULEVARD, ST.PETERSBURG, FLORIDA; FBW - INSURANCE; OO: TAMPA.  
*Re TELCON BETWEEN DAD FRIER AND SAC McCREIGHT, INSTANT DATE.*

FOR INFORMATION OF FBIHQ, THIS CASE WAS INITIATED

FOLLOWING RECEIPT OF A REFERRAL FROM THE UNITED STATES

ATTORNEY'S OFFICE, MIDDLE DISTRICT OF FLORIDA. THE CIVIL

DIVISION OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY'S OFFICE HAD RECENTLY

FILED A CIVIL ACTION AGAINST b6  
b7C SEEKING TO COLLECT

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1-Tampa  
CFB: mpc196B-TP-28810-2  
SEARCHED

INDEXED

SERIALIZED

FILED

CIA

*corrections done ps.*Approved: AmOriginal filename: BLC001W.104Time Received: 2137Telprep filename: BLC00150.104MRI/JULIAN DATE: 1584/104ISN: 005FOX DATE & TIME OF ACCEPTANCE: 4-14-93 2139b6  
b7C

^PAGE 2 196B-TP-28810 UNCLAS

WHEN MEDICARE'S FISCAL INTERMEDIARY MADE AN OBVIOUS AND GROSS  
MATHEMATICAL ERROR AND MISTAKENLY PAID THIS MONEY TO A  
DISSOLVED CORPORATION<sup>OF</sup> WHICH [REDACTED] AND [REDACTED] WERE  
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POCKETED THE FUNDS. THIS CASE ~~DID~~ RECEIVE PUBLICITY IN THE  
ST. PETERSBURG TIMES NEWSPAPER, ST. PETERSBURG, FLORIDA, WHICH  
RESULTED IN CONTACT FROM MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY REGARDING  
OTHER ONGOING FRAUD COMMITTED BY [REDACTED] <sup>AGAINST</sup> ~~TO~~ STRAIGHT, INC.

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STRAIGHT, INC., IS A NON-PROFIT ADOLESCENT SUBSTANCE  
ABUSE TREATMENT ORGANIZATION HEADQUARTERED IN ST. PETERSBURG,  
FLORIDA, WITH FACILITIES THROUGHOUT THE UNITED STATES. AT ITS  
PRIME, STRAIGHT, INC., HAD TEN PROGRAMS THROUGHOUT THE UNITED  
STATES AND CANADA, AND 14 SATELLITE OFFICES. ONLY ONE  
REMAINING FACILITY LOCATED IN ATLANTA IS IN OPERATION.

PARENTS OF THE ADOLESCENTS WITH A SUBSTANCE ABUSE PROBLEM  
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INTEREST IN THEIR INSURANCE CLAIM TO STRAIGHT, INC. STRAIGHT,  
INC., WOULD THEN SUBMIT THE CLAIMS TO THE VARIOUS INSURANCE

^PAGE 3 196B-TP-28810 UNCLAS

COMPANIES FOR PAYMENT. INSTEAD OF REIMBURSING THE PARENTS WHEN THE PAYMENTS FROM THE INSURANCE COMPANIES WERE RECEIVED BY STRAIGHT, THIS MONEY WAS UTILIZED FOR PAYROLL AND OPERATING CAPITAL FOR STRAIGHT, INC. MANY TIMES WHEN THE INSURANCE COMPANY FAILED TO NOTIFY THE PARENTS OF THEIR REIMBURSEMENT TO STRAIGHT, INC., STRAIGHT, INC., DID NOT NOTIFY THE PARENTS THAT STRAIGHT HAD RECEIVED A PAYMENT FOR THE SAME SERVICES. REIMBURSEMENT ONLY OCCURRED TO PARENTS WHEN THEY THREATENED TO EITHER SUE OR CONTACT THEIR LOCAL CONGRESSMAN.

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STRAIGHT, INC., DID LAY OFF NUMEROUS EMPLOYEES AND INSTITUTED A FIVE PERCENT REDUCTION FOR ALL CURRENT EMPLOYEES. INTERVIEWS CONDUCTED TO DATE DETERMINED THAT WHILE THESE REDUCTIONS WERE INSTITUTED, THE MANAGERS OF THE ORGANIZATION,

CONTINUED TO RECEIVE HIGH SALARIES, NUMEROUS BONUSES AND

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^PAGE 4 196B-TP-28810 UNCLAS

UTILIZED THE COMPANY CREDIT CARDS FOR PERSONAL USE -- TO  
INCLUDE TRAVEL TO LAS VEGAS, "BIKINI WAXING" DINNERS, AND  
OTHER TRAVEL EXPENSES TO INCLUDE A SKI TRIP TO CALIFORNIA.

ON APRIL 2, 1992, A FEDERAL GRAND JURY SUBPOENA FROM THE  
MIDDLE DISTRICT OF FLORIDA WAS SERVED



FBIHQ WILL BE NOTIFIED OF DEVELOPMENTS IN THIS  
INVESTIGATION AS THEY OCCUR.

BT

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- 1 -

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription 12/29/92

[redacted] Date of Birth (DOB) [redacted]  
Place of Birth (POB) [redacted] telephone number  
[redacted] was advised of the identity of the interviewing  
agent and the purpose for the interview [redacted] made  
available the following information:

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[redacted]  
[redacted]

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[redacted] STRAIGHT INCORPORATED is a non-profit organization that provides treatment and care to adolescents in substance abuse treatment programs. The cost of this program to the adolescents and their families is approximately \$13,000 to \$14,000 for an 18 month out-patient treatment program.

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[redacted] in most cases STRAIGHT required that the parents provide payment for their children prior to entry into the program. STRAIGHT INCORPORATED would then bill the insurance providers directly and receive the payment. Most times, STRAIGHT INCORPORATED failed to notify the parents that they were reimbursed from the insurance company, kept the funds, thereby double billing the consumer.

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[redacted] STRAIGHT INCORPORATED has facilities throughout the United States and at one time had 12 treatment centers; however, due to financial problems in the organization and in the economy, there are only four centers operating. The Orlando facility was closed approximately one month ago, however, it was opened the next day under the leadership of [redacted] opened SAFE SUBSTANCE ABUSE FAMILY EDUCATION FACILITY at the same place as STRAIGHT

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Investigation on 11/21/92 at [redacted] File # 196B-0  
by SA [redacted] rp\* Date dictated 11/21/92

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| SERIALIZED  | FILED   |
| DEC 30 1992 |         |
| FBI - TAMPA |         |

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DIA [redacted] [signature]

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Continuation of FD-302 of [REDACTED], On 11/21/92, Page 2

INCORPORATED [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] the volume of the insurance funds to STRAIGHT INCORPORATED is anywhere from \$180,000 to \$350,000 that they maintained without reimbursing to their patients. STRAIGHT has admitted receiving these dollars, however, they used these funds for their operating costs. STRAIGHT has made some payments to some families, although [REDACTED] cannot identify who received reimbursement from STRAIGHT INCORPORATED.

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[REDACTED] suggested that [REDACTED] be contacted regarding the insurance fraud at this facility. [REDACTED] was concerned about the files at this company due to the fact [REDACTED] believes the company will be terminating its business in December of 1992. [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

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- 1 -

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription 12/29/92

[redacted] Date of Birth (DOB) [redacted]  
Social Security Account Number (SSAN) [redacted]  
[redacted] was advised of the  
identity of the interviewing agent and the purpose for the  
interview. [redacted] made available the following  
information:

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[redacted]  
[redacted]  
[redacted] STRAIGHT INCORPORATED is a health care delivery system  
which is countrywide and has approximately 1400 patients. It  
does receive some MEDICARE/MEDICAID but predominant funding for  
the program is either through the patient's family or their  
individual private insurers. The program is only out-patient and  
is for treatment of substance abuse in adolescence.

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The ownership of STRAIGHT INCORPORATED changed in 1987  
when [redacted] purchased the company. Initially,  
things did improve, however, within the last year the company was  
experiencing a severe cash flow problem. In addition to this  
problem, TOM BROKOW of NBC broadcasted a 30 minute section on  
television indicating that there was child abuse and patient  
abuse at the STRAIGHT treatment facilities.

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[redacted] the average cost was \$19,000 per  
patient. These funds included after care and tutoring and  
education for the patient.

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[redacted]  
[redacted]  
[redacted] the management of STRAIGHT  
INCORPORATED was double billing the families. The families would  
make payment to STRAIGHT INCORPORATED and then STRAIGHT would  
bill the insurance companies. STRAIGHT INCORPORATED did not  
refund the \$19,000 to the families.

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Investigation on 12/7/92 at [redacted] File # 196B-0  
by SA [redacted] rp\* Date dictated 12/7/92

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96B-TP-28810-4

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| SERIALIZED  | FILED   |
| DEC 30 1992 |         |
| FBI - TAMPA |         |

cle [redacted] [signature]

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196B-0

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Continuation of FD-302 of \_\_\_\_\_, On 12/7/92, Page 2

Other individuals involved in the management of STRAIGHT INCORPORATED \_\_\_\_\_ were \_\_\_\_\_ In August of 1992, the STRAIGHT INCORPORATED facility in Orlando was shut down and then reopened the following day under the program of SAFE. Although there was no exchange of cash \_\_\_\_\_ did open and continues to operate this facility. \_\_\_\_\_ opinion that everything but the name is STRAIGHT INCORPORATED.

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\_\_\_\_\_ not all of the families were aware that STRAIGHT received their insurance payments. The only way they would have gained this information is if their insurance notified them directly. STRAIGHT INCORPORATED would not notify the patient or the patient's family regarding this reimbursement.

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\_\_\_\_\_ STRAIGHT INCORPORATED is experiencing financial problems and has closed their facilities in California, Texas, Washington, Virginia, Boston and Orlando. \_\_\_\_\_ still involved in the management and operations of this facility at the corporate offices in St. Petersburg, Florida. \_\_\_\_\_ opinion that this company will terminate it's business on December 31, 1992.

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\_\_\_\_\_ could be contacted at \_\_\_\_\_ resides \_\_\_\_\_ address is \_\_\_\_\_ can be contacted at \_\_\_\_\_ Florida. All of the officers involved in STRAIGHT INCORPORATED have filed for bankruptcy \_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_\_\_ at one time STRAIGHT INCORPORATED was involved in development of a Hispanic bilingual program, whereby they ordered bilingual material and had an invoice stating that they had received approximately \$95,000 worth of equipment. \_\_\_\_\_

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Continuation of FD-302 of [REDACTED], On 12/7/92, Page 3

[REDACTED]

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Although STRAIGHT INCORPORATED is experiencing financial difficulties, [REDACTED] receiving over \$250,000 in income and the other management are receiving similar levels of income.

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[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] did state that [REDACTED]  
are all "big gamblers".



- 1 -

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription 3/1/93

[redacted] Date of Birth (DOB) [redacted]  
[redacted] was advised of the identity  
of the interviewing agent and the purpose of the interview.  
[redacted] made available the following information:

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[redacted]  
[redacted]

[redacted] in 1988 there was a "schism" between  
top management and the philosophy of STRAIGHT, INC.  
Historically, STRAIGHT, INC. did not take the assignment of  
insurance on their patients, but rather the patient or their  
family would make full payment upon entering into the program.  
When [redacted] assumed control of STRAIGHT, INC. [redacted]  
[redacted] incorporated the  
accounting procedures of the assignment of insurance claims.  
What this in fact meant, was that a patient's parent or  
themselves would assign their insurance coverage, that being BLUE  
CROSS/BLUE SHIELD or any other insurance company payment to  
STRAIGHT, INC. STRAIGHT, INC. then would bill the insurance  
company for payment of the treatment provided by STRAIGHT, INC.

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[redacted] because of this change in  
management philosophy, cashflow became a problem in their  
operations. It became apparent to him that STRAIGHT, INC. did  
not have the resources to meet their expenses. At the same time  
of this change, the administration also expanded their facilities  
throughout the country. Therefore, STRAIGHT, INC. not only had a  
reduction in their cashflow, they had increased their expenses  
causing severe financial problems within the organization.

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[redacted] also discontinued the  
fundraising which was conducted by the parents of the patients.

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Investigation on 2/9/93 at [redacted] File # 196B-NEW

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by SA [redacted] Date dictated 2/9/93

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Continuation of FD-302 of \_\_\_\_\_, On 2/9/93, Page 2

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\_\_\_\_\_ there was numerous discussions regarding the insurance industry issue and other expenses being incurred by management.

\_\_\_\_\_ while \_\_\_\_\_ there was a minimum amount of civil suits filed for credit balances by parents who were not refunded their insurance payments. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ he does not believe there was any intent to defraud or harm the families of the patients seeking treatment at that program.

- 1 -

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription 4/23/93

[redacted] Date of Birth (DOB) [redacted]  
[redacted] telephone number [redacted] was advised of the identity  
of the interviewing Agent and the purpose for the interview.  
[redacted] provided the following information: *8*

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[redacted]

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[redacted]

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[redacted] It was the responsibility of the Corporate Headquarters located on Gandy Boulevard, St. Petersburg, Florida, to monitor all of the expenses and accounts for the programs in the United States. The payroll for STRAIGHT, INCORPORATED (STRAIGHT) was completed by ADP of St. Petersburg, Florida.

[redacted]

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[redacted] instituted the organizational changes of decentralization into a centralized administrative structure. All local operations were required to report to the Corporate headquarters where administrative responsibilities would be completed.

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Investigation on 4/13/93 at [redacted] File # 196B-TP-28810

by SA [redacted] lm Date dictated 4/18/93

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Continuation of FD-302 of

, On 4/13/93 , Page 2

[redacted] the treatment of the adolescents was successful; however, there were problems in the administrative side of the corporation. In 1988, STRAIGHT was making a great deal of money and all of their expenses were paid. Problems began to develop at STRAIGHT due to the following reasons: Losses of numerous lawsuits or settlements from difficulties earlier in the program at STRAIGHT. STRAIGHT had either no insurance or had limited coverage to meet these settlements. As a result of these lawsuits, STRAIGHT suffered negative publicity thereby reducing admissions into the program. Also, the expansion program that was instituted at STRAIGHT placed a demand on the cash flow, and the change of payment received from the clients had negative impact on the cash reserves.

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STRAIGHT attempted to obtain as much initial payments from the patients as possible. These fees included administration fees, testing, and a monthly fee which varied throughout the country. The remaining balance was to be paid monthly.

The patient or their families were required to submit a downpayment and sign their insurance claims to STRAIGHT.

[redacted] never observed a contract [redacted]  
[redacted]

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[redacted]  
[redacted]

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advised there was never any problem as to the correct account the money would be credited. The problem rests in the fact that the money was never returned to the insured. These funds were utilized by corporate headquarters for operational expenses. It is [redacted] belief that it was a corporate decision to maintain these funds in their account as long as possible.

In late 1990, the cash flow problems at STRAIGHT became quite severe. Vendors were asking for their money, bills were piling up while the programs were failing throughout the country. Telephone bills and utilities, to include the food for patients, could not be paid. Despite these factors, the managers continued to maintain a "high level of living," utilizing the business

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Continuation of FD-302 of \_\_\_\_\_, On 4/13/93, Page 3

credit cards for personal expenses, to include travel and dinners.

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\_\_\_\_\_ top management were utilizing these cards for travel expenses to include trips to Las Vegas and California. \_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_\_\_

In addition to the utilization of the credit cards, top management continued to receive high salaries and bonuses for their work despite the fact the programs were failing.

\_\_\_\_\_ initially STRAIGHT had ten programs operating and fourteen satellite offices throughout the United States. \_\_\_\_\_ believes that all of these programs are closed with the exception of the Atlanta, Georgia program. The Orlando program was purchased by \_\_\_\_\_ and the name was changed to SAFE.

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\_\_\_\_\_ when \_\_\_\_\_ there was hundreds of thousands of dollars that was due to patients. The patient and their family would only be refunded their money if they "screamed loud enough." It was managements intention, according to \_\_\_\_\_ that when things did improve, they would pay back the insurers their insurance money.

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\_\_\_\_\_ was the individual that decided who and what bills were paid \_\_\_\_\_ also

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Continuation of FD-302 of [REDACTED], On 4/13/93, Page 4

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informed the local programs that they were not to give the address or telephone numbers of Corporate headquarters to the insurers or the clients [REDACTED] did this in an effort to avoid numerous requests for reimbursement of their insurance premiums.

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] felt that STRAIGHT was taking advantage of the patients and their families at a very vulnerable time.

It is the opinion of [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] were aware of everything that occurred at STRAIGHT and also [REDACTED] had knowledge of the activities.

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# Memorandum



To : SAC, TAMPA (196B-TP-28810) (PRA) (C) Date 5/20/93

From : SA [redacted]

Subject: [redacted]

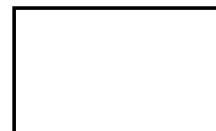
STRAIGHT, INC.,  
GANDY BOULEVARD,  
ST. PETERSBURG, FLORIDA;  
FBW - INSURANCE  
OO: TAMPA

The purpose of this memo is to request that the above file be closed under file #196B-TP-28810 and be reopened under the classification of a 209B case.

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(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

# FBI seeks dope on fraud claims at rehab center

Three people with ties to Straight Inc. say they have been contacted by the federal agency.

By ANNMARIE SARFIELD  
Tribune Staff Writer

ST. PETERSBURG — A former client and staff member of Straight Inc. says the FBI is investigating allegations of insurance fraud at the drug rehabilitation program.

Two parents of former clients say they, too, were contacted this week by an FBI agent and asked for details about alleged double- and triple-billing by Straight, a national program headquartered in St. Petersburg.

Straight uses intensive peer pressure and a 12-step program similar to Alcoholics Anonymous to rehabilitate adolescent drug users, according to an organization brochure.

The program, which closed its St. Petersburg treatment center about two weeks ago, has been praised by some for saving lives and successfully sued by others who alleged physical abuse.

Straight also is being investigated by the state, but a spokeswoman for the Department of Health and Rehabilitative Services would not provide details.

As a matter of policy, the FBI won't confirm or deny any possible investigations, said Brian Kense, an FBI spokesman in Tampa. Officials at Straight Inc. did not return repeated telephone calls.

Richard Bradbury of Tampa, the former client and founder of an activist group against Straight, said he was shocked to receive the FBI's call. His group has tried for years to prompt an investigation, he said.

Bradbury, scheduled to meet with an FBI agent Friday, said Straight charged for services not rendered and double- and triple-charged for other items.

For example, Bradbury said, clients in the program write daily progress reports on other clients. Then, a staff member — often a person whose only qualification is having completed the Straight program — tallies the recommendations to determine whether the client deserves to have additional privileges or move to the next phase of treatment.

Bradbury has client bills showing charges of thousands of dollars for a "daily intensive group therapy" conducted by clients. Although the bills have an attending physician listed, Bradbury said no physicians are involved in the sessions.

Bradbury also said peers, not a doctor, do the \$300 initial evaluation.

Fees paid by parents can range from \$10,000 to \$14,000 a year, he said, and Straight later bills insurance companies for many of the same services.

Barbara Segraves, whose son was in the program from 1988 to 1990, said Straight charged her \$450 a month to cover the cost of her son staying in a host home. The clients attend the day program at the Straight treatment center, then spend nights with other clients' families.

For her efforts as a host, Segraves said, "I didn't get a cent." At that time, host parents were supposed to receive \$7 a day for each child staying in their home, she said.

Segraves said she also will meet Friday with an FBI agent.

Dee Edwards, whose son was in the program from 1990 to 1991, said she'll meet with the FBI this week.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)  
THE TAMPA TRIBUNE  
TAMPA, FL

Date: 5/6/93  
Edition:

Title:

Character:  
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Classification:  
Submitting Office:  
TAMPA

Indexing:

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(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

# Critics say Straight Inc. target of fraud investigation

By CURTIS KRUEGER  
Times Staff Writer

ST. PETERSBURG — The controversial drug treatment program Straight Inc., which may be preparing to close its national headquarters here, is being investigated by the FBI for possible insurance fraud, say two critics of the program.

Richard Bradbury, a former Straight client and staff member, and Barbara Segraves, the mother of a former client, said they had been questioned by the FBI. Both said the questions were related to insurance fraud.

Bradbury, who has formed a network of former clients and others who oppose Straight, said he was to meet with the FBI

today. He said he was asked "to bring the documentation and other information related to insurance fraud."

Bradbury contends the organization bills people for doctor-supervised therapy when doctors actually haven't been present.

Mrs. Segraves, whose son was in the program in 1989 and 1990, said she acted as a host mother, allowing other clients to stay in her home. However, she said she was not paid as promised. She estimated the cost of her son's treatment at about \$10,000 and said he has needed additional counseling to get over the humiliating treatment he received.

Larry Curtin, special agent in the FBI's

Tampa division, would not confirm or deny an investigation.

At the organization's national headquarters in St. Petersburg, a woman who answered the phone Thursday said the office was closing soon. She declined to give her name. The organization's sign had been taken down and a "for sale" sign was posted.

Wesley Pennington, president of Straight, at first denied that the national office would be closing.

After being told that a staff member had said otherwise, he said, "Well, then, take your lead from them." He declined to comment further.

Last week, Straight closed its St. Pe-

tersburg area office, which had the capacity for 100 clients but had only 16.

Straight has won national acclaim, as well as national controversy, because of its methods. Nancy Reagan, former President George Bush, former Dallas Cowboys quarterback Roger Staubach and psychologist Joyce Brothers have promoted the program, which operates on the theory that drug-dependent youths need to get into a drug-free environment and experience peer pressure to stay off drugs.

But critics say the organization has relied on abusive methods that included the humiliation of clients, and that some of the adolescents in the program were struck by staff.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

ST. PETE TIMES  
ST. PETE, FL

Date: 5/3/93  
Edition:

Title:

Character:  
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Classification:  
Submitting Office:  
TAMPA

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The program has run into problems with regulatory officials in several states. In Florida, the state Department of Health and Rehabilitative Services is investigating Straight.

Virginia officials announced in 1991 that they would not renew a Straight center's license because the program allegedly had failed to provide proper education, had allowed clients to be improperly restrained and had made mistakes in evaluating client progress. So the center moved to Maryland, and then closed last year.

Despite the controversy over its methods, Straight officials have consistently blamed the economy for declining enrollment.

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- 1 -

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription 5/21/93

[redacted] Date of Birth (DOB) [redacted]  
 white female, Place of Birth (POB) [redacted]  
 Social Security Account Number (SSAN) [redacted], address [redacted]  
 [redacted] was advised of the identity of the interviewing Agent and  
 the purpose for the interview [redacted] provided the  
 following information:

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[redacted] became involved with  
 STRAIGHT INCORPORATED (STRAIGHT) [redacted]  
 [redacted] was admitted into the  
 STRAIGHT program [redacted] remained at this facility until [redacted]  
 [redacted] when [redacted] withdrew him from the program. [redacted]  
 [redacted] was referred to STRAIGHT by her Pediatrician [redacted]  
 [redacted]

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[redacted] could not recall specific details of the  
 initial interview because of her "state of mind" at the time she  
 was admitting her son to the program. She does recall that upon  
 entering the program she was immediately separated from her son  
 and later learned that he was removed from the grounds even  
 before she executed the admissions papers [redacted] initial  
 interview was with [redacted] of STRAIGHT. A drug screening or  
 test was conducted; however [redacted] had to "fight for the  
 results." Eventually [redacted] obtained possession of the drug  
 test which indicated there was no drugs in her son's system upon  
 admission into the STRAIGHT program [redacted] had no contact  
 with her son for four months following [redacted]

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[redacted] advised that her son suffered various abuses  
 and problems while in STRAIGHT. [redacted]  
 [redacted]

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[redacted] Although [redacted] attempted  
 to keep her son in school by doing the homework and other *in*  
 projects, STRAIGHT personnel informed her to withdraw from public  
 [redacted]

Investigation on 5/6/93 at [redacted] File # 209 196B-TP-28810-10  
 by SA [redacted] lm Date dictated 5/12/93

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Continuation of FD-302 of \_\_\_\_\_, On 5/6/93, Page 2

school system \_\_\_\_\_  
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\_\_\_\_\_ did have medical coverage and health insurance for her son through \_\_\_\_\_. \_\_\_\_\_ could not state what the actual cost of the program was because the charges were always changing. She was never informed of the host home fees upon admission into the program. On one occasion when she was a week late on the host home fees her son was not allowed to eat.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ has been in contact with \_\_\_\_\_ who did win one lawsuit against STRAIGHT; however, according to \_\_\_\_\_ has been told by other lawyers not to handle any more suits against STRAIGHT. It is the opinion of \_\_\_\_\_ that this occurred and no one is addressing the problems of STRAIGHT because it is owned by "big totem poles" to include various attorneys, wealthy individuals, and judges in Pinellas County.

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\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ made available a copy of \_\_\_\_\_ to the investigative Agent.

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\_\_\_\_\_ had no interaction with the corporate headquarters. All interactions with STRAIGHT had to go through the chain of command, which included the program that your child was admitted. *when your child was receiving treatment,*

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In reference to insurance coverage, \_\_\_\_\_ realized that the coverage, or bills being sent to \_\_\_\_\_ different in the amounts *then the bills* that were coming to her. On numerous occasions she attempted to get copies of the bills and explanations of the services, however, *she* this was unsuccessful. \_\_\_\_\_ did later learn that BLUE CROSS/BLUE SHIELD was only willing to make payment for services outside of STRAIGHT, to include \_\_\_\_\_

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Continuation of FD-302 of [REDACTED], On 5/6/93, Page 3

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[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] believed that she did execute government insurance documents during the initial interview with [REDACTED]. To date, [REDACTED] does owe STRAIGHT [REDACTED].

[REDACTED] advised that <sup>by</sup> one of the charges submitted by STRAIGHT there was a charge from a [REDACTED] for a complete evaluation of [REDACTED] while he was at STRAIGHT. [REDACTED] advised that they did go to [REDACTED] after he was released from STRAIGHT [REDACTED].

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[REDACTED] At no time did her son see, nor was he evaluated by, a [REDACTED] while a client at STRAIGHT.



- 1 -

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription 5/21/93

[redacted] white female, Date of Birth (DOB)  
[redacted] Place of Birth (POB) [redacted] Social Security  
[redacted]

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[redacted] was advised of *CAB*  
the identity of the interviewing Agent and the purpose for the  
interview.

[redacted] became involved in STRAIGHT  
INCORPORATED (STRAIGHT) when [redacted] was  
admitted into the program in [redacted]

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[redacted] who admitted [redacted]  
into the program, had promised their family a scholarship to the  
program because they were unable to meet the cost of care for  
[redacted] did attend the initial interview with [redacted]  
[redacted] when [redacted] was being admitted into the  
program.

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[redacted] STRAIGHT FOUNDATION INCORPORATED  
is the holding company for STRAIGHT. STRAIGHT FOUNDATION  
possesses the assets, while STRAIGHT has the liabilities of the  
group.

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[redacted] when STRAIGHT closed their  
Maryland office they simply vacated the premises and left the  
files and the office in disarray [redacted]  
believes the STRAIGHT office in Houston, Texas was closed because  
of insurance fraud [redacted] would make available  
to the investigating Agent a copy of the STRAIGHT television  
investigative report, which highlights the various allegations

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Investigation on 5/5/93 at [redacted] File # 196B-TP-28810

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by SA [redacted] lm Date dictated 5/12/93

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Continuation of FD-302 of , On 5/5/93, Page 2

against the management, and other individuals employed at  
STRAIGHT in reference to insurance fraud and physical abuse of  
the clients.

- 1 -

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription 5/21/93

[redacted] white female, Date of Birth (DOB) [redacted]  
[redacted] Place of Birth (POB) [redacted] Social Security  
Account Number (SSAN) [redacted] address [redacted]  
[redacted] was advised of the identity of the  
interviewing Agent and the purpose for the interview [redacted]  
then made available the following information:

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[redacted]  
[redacted]  
[redacted] became involved in STRAIGHT  
INCORPORATED (STRAIGHT) in [redacted] when she admitted her son  
[redacted] to the program for drug abuse [redacted]  
"beside herself" with the behavior of her son and his drug usage,  
thereby creating a "desperate situation for herself." In  
response to this [redacted]  
travelled to STRAIGHT with [redacted] to admit him into the  
program. During the course of the initial interview with [redacted]  
[redacted] she was required to put a downpayment of \$4,000. [redacted]  
[redacted] informed [redacted] at  
this time that she had no insurance and would need financial  
assistance in the cost of treatment for her son [redacted] advised  
that there was scholarship programs supported by different  
corporations to include FLORIDA POWER and GENERAL ELECTRIC, which  
was to assist disadvantage families in obtaining care at  
STRAIGHT [redacted] does recall signing numerous documents during  
this interview with [redacted] but she cannot recall specific details.  
She does recall the \$4,000 downpayment was to be applied for drug  
testing for [redacted] Testing was done to determine  
what drugs were being utilized by her son and how much damage to  
his body had occurred. Approximately thirty to sixty days after  
the initial admission [redacted] began to receive bills directly  
from ALLIED DRUG LAB for the testing of her son. [redacted] could  
not understand why she was receiving these bills because she  
believed that they should have been covered in the cost of the

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b7DInvestigation on 5/5/93 at [redacted] File # 196B-TP-28810by SA [redacted] lm Date dictated 5/12/93

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Continuation of FD-302 of [REDACTED], On 5/5/93, Page 2

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\$4,000 downpayment at STRAIGHT. In addition to these costs, the testing was not done upon the admission of her son into the program, but rather approximately sixty days later [REDACTED] was never informed as to why it took two months to test her son.

Throughout this period [REDACTED] continually contacted [REDACTED] regarding the scholarships available for treatment. Eventually [REDACTED] informed [REDACTED] that there were no scholarships available for her son.

[REDACTED] most of her contact was with [REDACTED]. The parents were not allowed to contact the corporate headquarters or the corporate building directly [REDACTED] knows that [REDACTED] were part of the headquarters management team; however, she had no contact with them.

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[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] at no time was she told that the cost of care at the program. There was the initial payment of \$4,000 and then a monthly fee which, upon admission, did not mention a host family fee. This fee was for the cost of housing her child in a home other than her own. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] although STRAIGHT was aware of the fact that she did not have insurance or the finances to pay for this treatment, they continued to bill her for housing, treatment, and drug testing [REDACTED] had no information regarding [REDACTED] and again reiterated the parents were not allowed to have contact with the corporate office.

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Continuation of FD-302 of \_\_\_\_\_, On 5/5/93, Page 3

After removing her son from the program \_\_\_\_\_  
determined that this program was not what it appeared to be,

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\_\_\_\_\_ does recall dealing with \_\_\_\_\_  
regarding the financing arrangements for the cost of her son's  
care. \_\_\_\_\_ had obtained the bills which were outstanding for  
\_\_\_\_\_ and telephonically contacted \_\_\_\_\_ to come  
into the STRAIGHT office to discuss these bills. \_\_\_\_\_ did  
travel to STRAIGHT on Gandy Boulevard and had a discussion with  
\_\_\_\_\_. During this discussion \_\_\_\_\_ informed \_\_\_\_\_ that  
he was not running a free meal ticket for indigent parents.  
\_\_\_\_\_ informed \_\_\_\_\_ that she was promised a scholarship  
whereby \_\_\_\_\_ stated there was no such program. At this point,  
\_\_\_\_\_ did pull him up and across the table in frustration of  
what he was saying and the treatment regarding her ability to  
pay. \_\_\_\_\_ then called \_\_\_\_\_ a "bitch and stupid." At this  
point \_\_\_\_\_ felt it would be better if she left the office,  
thereby exiting \_\_\_\_\_ office, she then "grabbed her son from  
the program and took him home."

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- 1 -

The following investigation was conducted by Special Agent [redacted] on April 28, 1993, in Clearwater, Florida:

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[redacted] telephone number (904) 488-1225, Department of Health and Rehabilitation Services, Tallahassee, Florida, advised he is currently involved in a state investigation targeting STRAIGHT, INCORPORATED of St. Petersburg, Florida. The focus of [redacted] investigation is allegations of child abuse, licensing procedures, and other drug rehabilitation treatment procedures forwarded by STRAIGHT, INCORPORATED. [redacted] stated that although his department is not investigating any areas of insurance fraud, he has been told by individuals that this did occur at STRAIGHT, INCORPORATED.

[redacted] provided the following names and telephone numbers of individuals who may have information regarding the insurance fraud at STRAIGHT, INCORPORATED:

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1. [redacted]  
Telephone number: [redacted]

Had a son in the program in Orlando, Florida and the insurance company paid 100 percent of the treatment costs. [redacted] did make a cash payment to STRAIGHT, INCORPORATED, however, she was not reimbursed.

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2. [redacted]  
Telephone number: [redacted]

3. [redacted] Family  
Mother: First Name Unknown [redacted]  
Son: [redacted]

[redacted] was in the facility and has documents regarding possible insurance fraud. She can be reached at telephone number [redacted]

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4. [redacted]  
Telephone number: [redacted]

5. [redacted]  
Telephone number: [redacted]

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- 1 -

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription 5/20/93

[redacted] white male. Date of Birth (DOB) [redacted]  
[redacted] Place of Birth (POB) [redacted]  
Social Security Account Number (SSAN) [redacted] home address [redacted]  
[redacted] telephone number [redacted]  
was advised of the identity of the interviewing Agent and the purpose for the interview. Also present during this interview was [redacted]

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[redacted]  
[redacted] then provided the following information:

[redacted] first became acquainted with STRAIGHT, INCORPORATED when he was [redacted] years old and was admitted as a client into the facility. At this time [redacted] was in the program and he believed that he was going to a counselling session with the family when he was admitted into the program [redacted]

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[redacted] informed him that "STRAIGHT INCORPORATED was actually a cult." Because of these problems, and [redacted] information [redacted]

[redacted] upon his admission, his parents were told that if he did not accept admittance into STRAIGHT INCORPORATED [redacted] would be dismissed from the program.

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Investigation on 5/7/93 at Clearwater, Florida File # 196B-TP-28810

by SA [redacted] lm Date dictated 5/14/93

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196B-TP-28810

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Continuation of FD-302 of [REDACTED], On 5/7/93, Page 2

Clients in the facility are responsible for doing "everything" at STRAIGHT INCORPORATED. The sessions last all day, and they are sometimes only fed peanut butter sandwiches.

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[REDACTED] primary focus has been on the physical abuse suffered by the clients of STRAIGHT INCORPORATED. During his involvement in this activity, [REDACTED] did discover evidence of insurance fraud on the part of STRAIGHT INCORPORATED.

[REDACTED] the cost varied among families and there is no set policy regarding the cost of care. Parents are required to pay entry fees and host family fees. STRAIGHT does retain all the funds at corporate headquarters [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] STRAIGHT INCORPORATED developed after the closure of a drug program identified as "SEED". On October 13, 1989, the foundation for STRAIGHT INCORPORATED was dissolved. The financial operation of STRAIGHT INCORPORATED utilized C&S BANK in St. Petersburg, Florida. STRAIGHT FOUNDATION was a holding company which maintained the assets, and STRAIGHT INCORPORATED was involved with the program and the clients. [REDACTED] was the National Executive, and [REDACTED] was the Comptroller for STRAIGHT INCORPORATED. STRAIGHT INCORPORATED is also known as STRAIGHT NATIONAL CORPORATION, and their assets are held by the STRAIGHT FOUNDATION. [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] loaned STRAIGHT INCORPORATED \$50,000 in 1992. Also involved in the STRAIGHT FOUNDATION is [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] has no contact with the headquarters of STRAIGHT INCORPORATED.

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[REDACTED] STRAIGHT is not a BLUE CROSS/BLUE SHIELD provider. Many times STRAIGHT would bill an insurance company when the clients were not treated by a trained or

196B-TP-28810

Continuation of FD-302 of [REDACTED], On 5/7/93, Page 3

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licensed practitioner. The treatment was administered by clients in the program and letters signed by psychiatrists and social workers who did not treat the clients [REDACTED] did provide handwritten notes of former clients which he had obtained from the trash in Orlando, which were utilized to evaluate the client.

Upon admission, STRAIGHT administrators would inform the parents of the clients that they were BLUE CROSS/BLUE SHIELD providers and JACHO accredited [REDACTED] STRAIGHT INCORPORATED was not licensed for psychological treatment, but rather drug and alcohol or substance abuse problems.

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The Orlando, Florida program of STRAIGHT has recently been converted to SAFE.

[REDACTED] located at telephone [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] telephone number [REDACTED] should be contacted regarding allegations of insurance fraud. Individuals who have information regarding insurance fraud are [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

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File - Serial Charge Out  
FD-5 (Rev. 10-13-89)

Date 6-29-93

File 209B TP 28810

Class.

Office of Origin

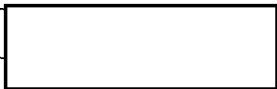
Case No.

Last Serial

☐ Pending

☐ Closed

| Serial No. | Description of Serial  | Date Charged |
|------------|------------------------|--------------|
| 15         | maintain in sub B file | 6-29-93      |
|            | for news clips.        |              |
|            |                        |              |
|            |                        |              |
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|            |                        |              |



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RECHARGE

Date \_\_\_\_\_

To \_\_\_\_\_ From \_\_\_\_\_

Initials of Clerk



Date



Date charged

Employee

Location

FPI-RBK

# STRAIGHT TALK

Newsletter of the STRAIGHT / Tampa Bay Parent Booster Club

FEBRUARY 1989

## NEWS FROM THE ADMINISTRATOR

Hello, and best wishes for 1989 to all of you.

First of all, we have our Jacksonville Family Service Center office fully operational now that our FSC Manager, Mr. Roger Gref, is fully trained and on-site at the 9140 Golfside Drive location. This Baymeadows Area office will serve as our Jacksonville referral center and will also serve as the weekly evening meeting location for the Greater Jacksonville Parents. The new local telephone number in Jacksonville is (904) 733-0039.

Next, we will continue to spread the word on STRAIGHT via the TV media. BLAB TV, the Pinellas County Cable call-in talk show, has been selected for a thirteen week term beginning Thursday, February 9th, at 9:00 to 10:00 PM, and each Thursday thereafter through May 4th. BLAB TV broadcasts on Paragon Cable Channel 9 and Vision Cable Channel 5. This is a Community Advisory Board project and we need your help, too. (cont. to page 2)

## SIBLING RAP GETTING BETTER

Evie Pijanowski reports that Sibling Rap is looking for people and ideas to help make a great program for the siblings. Because of the wide age difference between the children who participate in this rap, a variety of rap topics and activities need to be made available. If you have skills or activities you would be willing to share at the sibling rap, please contact Evie.

## DIME THEREPY LIST PUBLISHED

Jeanie Tondreault has graciously assumed the responsibility for maintaining and printing a Dime Therapy list for parents. Please be sure to put your name on the list and keep the information current. This list is great for support phone calls - to make and to receive. Use it often. You can get a list at the front desk or at the Monday and Friday meetings.

## BINGO NEEDS SUPPORT

Bingo is vital to the support of Straight. It needs and deserves support from each Straight family. A copy of the new teams has been distributed and can be obtained from the front desk. If you have questions about your team or obligations, please contact your team captain.

If, for any reason, you cannot show up for your scheduled days, you must make sure you arrange to trade with another parent. It is your responsibility to make these arrangements. Parents who fail to follow the established Bingo procedure will be started over in the required raps to obtain Second Phase.

## BE GRATEFUL.....

When you arise in the morning, give thanks for the morning light. Give thanks for your life and strength. Give thanks for your food, and give thanks for the joy of living. And if perchance you see no reason to give thanks, rest assured the fault is in yourself.

Wabasha, Chief of Santee  
Sioux

continued from page 1

We will be inviting parents, kids and Community Advisory Board Members to appear on these live shows.

Ms. Betty Sembler has already accepted our invitation to appear on the initial show on February 9th. Dr. G. Dematte will appear on February 16th, Susan and Terry Brimmer on February 23rd, and Pat List on March 2nd. We will be asking for more guests on the subsequent shows. Please call me if you can help us in any way on this special community awareness project.

Then too, we thank all of the parents, staff, and Community Advisory Board Members who helped make the HSN Christmas Eve Telethon, the J.C. Penney Golf Classic, and the P. Buckley Moss Art Gala all very successful for STRAIGHT. The extra time, efforts and commitment on these special projects truly reflects your dedication to the success of our Program.

*Love ya, JGH*

## TOUGH LOVE GROUPS SUPPLEMENT STRAIGHT

Tough Love is a parent support groups that meets at various places, usually in churches, in Tampa and St. Pete. One meeting is at St. John's Episcopal Church in Hyde Park on Tuesday evenings at 7:30. The meeting usually lasts two hours. This is a time when parents can share experiences and problem-solving techniques. Literature and audiovisual aids are available from the group.

## HOST HOME SUPPORT

### Host Home Support Committee

This parent group is designed to offset expenses that are incurred by each of our host homes on behalf of our kids. It supports First Phase and Phase Review clients only. At this time, host homes supporting children in Second Phase and above are responsible for contacting parents of those children directly.

A host home table is being staffed by parents at the STRAIGHT meetings every Monday and Friday to collect gift certificates and Host Home sheets. Parents of children on First Phase or Phase Review are obligated to bring gift certificates in the amount of \$7.00 per night for each day the child is in a host home. These are turned in to the Host Home Support table at the meeting and are then forwarded to the appropriate host home.

When children on Second Phase and above are sent to a host home, the parents of these children should be responsible for giving the money or gift certificates directly to the host home parent.

### A POEM By Gwen Coleman

I look and see behind my eyes  
that navy blue mass  
Speckled with silver and gold But  
I am told so little.  
Yet a small overpowering voice  
screams from my gut  
that this is where I belong. And  
I believe it. I wonder  
What I will find.  
And how far goes my mind.  
Will I go away and touch my wish  
Find the place of my desire  
To discover what is unknown  
And grown so.

# FIVE ON FIVE: THE POSITIVE SIDE OF

Page 3

By Patti and Larry Barnes

## RELAPSE

When our family commenced the Straight Program, we left the building hoping we would be part of the 60 percent who stayed straight. We had been an active family and spent nearly a year in those blue chairs.

My husband and I continued to work on ourselves after we commenced by remaining active Straight alumni and by attending Alanon meetings. But Larry Jr. relapsed. After a period of time when his problems grew worse, Larry decided to return to Straight. We met this request with enthusiasm and support but we were cautious. Realizing that I had been an enabler to Larry in the past, we decided that this time Larry's decision and hard work would have to take him through the program. We decided it was best for Larry to make the sacrifice of hosting out and living out of a suitcase instead of living comfortably at home with a mother who wanted to make everything perfect, including the perfect host home. Larry had taken a lot of pride in his host home the first time he came through the program. When Larry came through the program the first time, I remember how

relieved we were to have this great kid home and we probably overdid everything. I wanted to be a strong host mom. But this time, Larry's pride would need to come from his own efforts, without the host home.

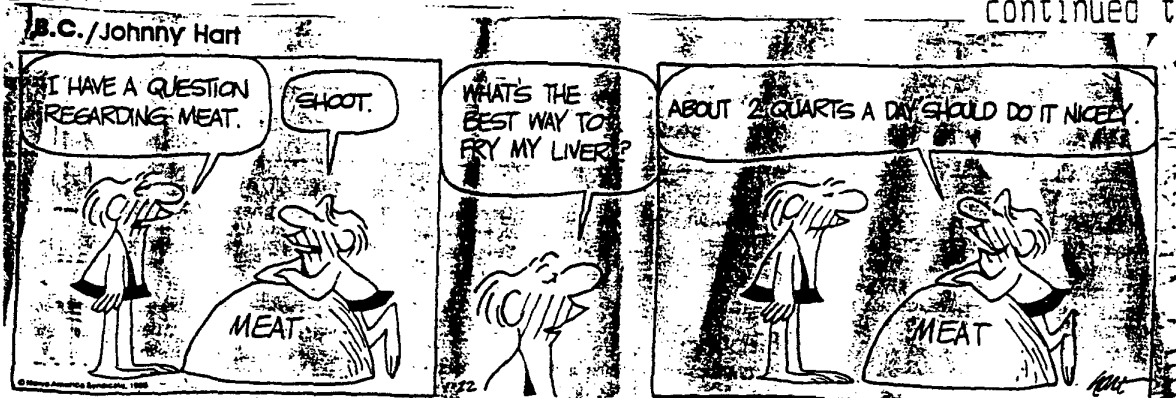
I think I might have insight about how program graduates feel when they come back. It really strengthens your program and enthusiasm when you come back to Straight and give out to others. It helps to remind you of where you have been and the mistakes you made the first time around. Now you have a second chance. I have met a new set of friends and the numbers are constantly growing as the kids enter aftercare.

We have all heard that relapse is part of the disease, but it may also be part of the cure.

## SPEAKERS' BUREAU, AT WORK

The Speakers' Bureau consists of about 20 parents who will take one or two phasers into the community to tell about Straight; how unmanagable our family lives had become; and how things are going now. The parent will introduce the background of

continued to page 4





continued from page 3

Straight and the kids. The kids do most of the talking (about 20 to 30 minutes of presentation.) Most audiences have many questions. These presentations can help other parents identify problems in their own families.

We speak to churches, Sunday school classes, middle and high schools, service clubs (Rotary, Sertoma, Kiwanis, etc.) businesses, colleges, homeowners' associations, or small groups of neighbors in our homes.

The parent group is the number one referral source for future clients and also a source of information to parents about some of the signs of drug use in their children.

The speaking engagement that came to my service club meant very much to me. A client was telling about behaviorial patterns very similar to our son. About one month after hearing about Straight at this meeting, we entered treatment.

Some future speaking engagements are Girl Scouts, Shore Crest Parent Association, Rotary Club, T.V. Stations, and a church. Many schools are still in demand.

I encourage any parent wanting to be on the Speakers' Bureau to see Teri Hellmer or myself. All parents are encouraged to arrange speaking engagements for the bureau, even if you don't feel like speaking right now.

Terry Brimmer  
Addiction is like a coiled serpent which strikes with such ferocity it leaves the victim powerless.

"Life is what happens while you're making other plans."

## PARENTS' WEEKEND

Page 4

### "To Thine Ownself

#### Be True"

By Janice Dashler

The first big issue to come up for me was priorities. Should I take time off from work to attend a Parent Weekend? I needed the money from my Saturday Part Time Job but I needed to attend the Parent Weekend. I had just opened my host home and was full of fear about whether I'd be able to handle it. This was a good motivating force to attend the required Parent Weekend. I had heard plenty of ominous sounding comments about Parent Weekend and asking for further information was told, "You have to go to find out. It's a secret." This only made the event sound more scary to me.

I decided to go with an open mind, see what I could learn and take some risks. So the first night, I wasn't surprised about the things we were asked to do. I decided to try and be the best participant I could be. Saturday was a long, hard day and I worked on my attitude about family and personal issues. I was tired when I got home Saturday night and my head was buzzing with all that had happened. Sunday was easier for me. Now I knew what to expect.

Don't get irritated about not knowing what parent weekend is. You will grow and learn much about yourself and issues that your family needs to deal with. Leave yourself free to devote all of yourself to this growing experience.

You will learn some humility, dig into your feelings, awareness, see what pushes your buttons and appreciate the program you've invested yourself in. Your love and respect for your kid will grow.

209B-TP-28810-16

BUT BUT

JUN 17 1993

CIA



*[Handwritten signature]*

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## STRAIGHT, INC.

## DIME THERAPY LIST

NAME

PHONE

SEX

PHASE

|      |       |
|------|-------|
| Girl | 1     |
| Boy  | 5     |
| Boy  | 5     |
| Girl | 1     |
| Girl | 4     |
| Boy  | 7     |
| Boys | 1     |
| Boys | 5 & 7 |
| Boy  | 1     |
| Girl | 4     |
| Boy  | 1     |
| Girl | 2     |
| Boy  | 2     |
| Girl | 3     |
| Girl | 7     |
| Girl | 5     |
| Girl | 3     |
| Boy  | 1     |
| Boy  | 1     |
| Girl | 1     |
| Boy  | 1     |
| Boy  | 1     |
| Boy  | 2     |
| Girl | 5     |
| Boy  | 1     |
| Girl | 1     |
| Girl | 1     |
| Girl | 2     |
| Boy  | 5     |
| Boy  | 5     |
| Boy  | 1     |
| Boy  | 2     |
| Boy  | 5     |
| Boy  | 2     |
| Boy  | 4     |
| Boy  | 4     |
| Boys | 1     |
| Girl | 1     |
| Boy  | 1     |
| Girl | 2     |
| Boy  | 1     |
| Girl | 5     |
| Girl | 3     |
| Boy  | 1     |
| Boy  | 1     |
| Boy  | 3     |
| Boy  | 1     |
| Boy  | 5     |
| Girl | 1     |
| Girl | 3     |
| Boy  | 1     |
| Boy  | 5     |

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# DIME THERAPY LIST

PHASE

|      |   |
|------|---|
| Girl | 2 |
| Girl | 1 |
| Girl | 4 |
| Boy  | 1 |
| Girl | 3 |
| Girl | 2 |
| Girl | 1 |
| Boy  | 2 |
| Girl | 3 |
| Boy  | 1 |
| Girl | 3 |
| Boy  | 1 |
|      |   |
| Girl | 3 |
| Boy  | 2 |
| Girl | 1 |
| Boy  | 3 |
| Girl | 1 |
| Boy  | 1 |
| Girl | 1 |
| Girl | 3 |
| Boy  | 2 |
| Girl | 2 |

<http://survivingstraightinc.com>



*Black shoes*

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# Community Improvement, Inc.

A Non-Profit Organization

104 E. Fowler Ave.

Tampa, FL 33612

## NATIONAL SUPPORT GROUP NETWORK FOR VICTIMS OF STRAIGHT

Dear Friends:

5/24/91

The National Support Group Network for Victims of Straight has several important announcements which we feel will be of benefit to you:

1) On June 05, 1991 at 7:00 p.m. at our headquarters address, 104 East Fowler Avenue, Suite 203, in Tampa, (see enclosed map), Linda Vester of Channel 8 News will be interviewing families including parents, former clients, siblings, and others about their experiences with the Straight Organization and at the Straight Facility.

It is very important that you and/or your family attend this media event; this way we can inform the general public of the abuses which take place at the Straight Facility; by so doing, we hope to prevent others from suffering the effects of abuse. Also, we hope to eventually stop the free flow of income Straight receives from its victims through its dangerous and deceptive methods.

Please contact our office by phone preferably before June 04, 1991[(813)-931-8028] so we can arrange to have adequate seating available. If a representative from the support group is unavailable, please leave your name and telephone number so we may contact you. If you wish to speak to the media but would prefer to remain anonymous, the reporters will see to it that your face is "blackened out" and your voice altered during taping.

2) On June 26, 1991, at 7:00p.m. we will have attorney Karen Barnett speak at our headquarters. Ms. Barnett will be speaking to our support group to give us an overview of our legal rights as they relate to Straight and the abuses which took place there. This meeting will be free of charge, R.S.V.P. Please understand Ms. Barnett will not be able to answer specific questions on specific cases; however, she should be able to give general answers and guidance which will be beneficial to the whole group. Also understand she will not be here to solicit clients; she is doing this as a service to us.

3) We are attempting to establish a committee of 5-6 people (former clients, parents, or siblings) in every county in which a Straight was or is located. This would allow us to hold support group meetings and provide necessary services to any who feels they need help or guidance to deal with the effects of Straight's abuse. For more information, you may visit or call our office as indicated above.



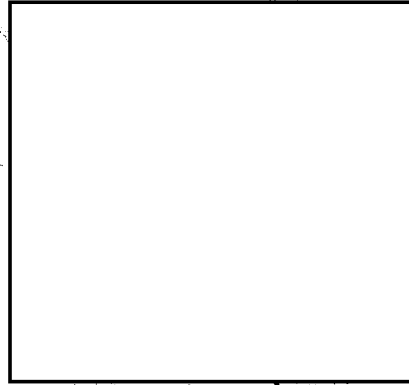
- 4) If you are one of the families against which Straight has filed a lawsuit and are requiring legal services, but are unable to afford such services because of a financial situation, you may contact Gulf Coast Legal Services located in Pinellas County. Their telephone number is (Clearwater 813-443-0657, St.Pete 813-821-0765).
- 5) The National Support Group Network for Victims of Straight has a monthly operating budget of \$240.00 or a yearly total of \$2,880.00. We would greatly appreciate your financial assistance in our fight against Straight. We have sustained the organization thus far on voluntary donations from individuals; however, with your help, we could offer a wider range of services and benefits. We recently completed the documentation necessary to be a tax-exempt organization; therefore, your donation is tax-deductible. All of our staff and administrators are volunteers. This allows your full contribution to go directly to services we can offer you. Such services include abuse investigations, support group meetings, consultations with professional counselors, legal research, mailings, and other services, all of which are available for you as you request them. If you desire to help us financially, please make your check payable to: Community Improvement, Inc., c/o National Support Group Network for Victims of Straight, 104 East Fowler Avenue, Suite #203, Tampa , Florida 33612. If you would like more detailed financial information, please feel free to contact our office.

Once again thank you for your support in our fight against the dangerous and powerful Straight organization. Please help us as we strive to protect future generations from abuse at the hands of this reprehensible, incompetent organization.

Community Improvement, Inc.  
National Support Group  
Network for Victims of Straight

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August 22, 1989

ST. PETERSBURG TIMES

# tampa bay AND

## Roast diplomat

Doonesbury rakes nominees Sembler, Zappala

By BILL MOSS  
Times Staff Writer

They've been ridiculed in the U.S. Senate and stung by editorials. Now, St. Petersburg developers Mel Sembler and Joe Zappala are being skewered by cartoonist Garry Trudeau in *Doonesbury*.

Sembler and Zappala have been nominated by President Bush to serve as ambassadors to Australia and Spain, respectively. Democratic senators have criticized the appointments as political rewards for the generous financial support the two men gave Bush. Each contributed more than \$100,000 to Bush's presidential campaign and were among his top-money-raisers nationwide.

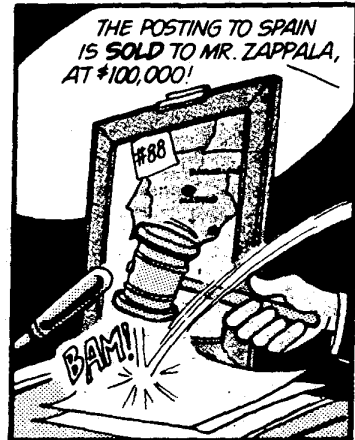
The *Doonesbury* strip, syndicated in about 900 newspapers including the *St. Petersburg Times*,

this week satirizes the political appointments of the Bush administration.

Today's strip opens with an auctioneer closing the bidding for the diplomatic appointment to Spain. "The posting to Spain is sold to Mr. Zappala at \$100,000," the auctioneer says. The auctioneer then reminds the winning bidder that speaking the language of the host country is a requirement of the job. Asked if he understands, the winning bidder replies, "Uh . . . Oui! Da! You betcha!"

Zappala has been criticized because he doesn't speak Spanish. His defenders, including Florida Republican Sen. Connie Mack, point out that Zappala speaks Italian and is learning Spanish.

Please see **DOONESBURY 8B**



*Doonesbury* this week is taking jabs at Mel Sembler, left, and Joe Zappala of St. Petersburg.



## Doonesbury

from 1B

In Wednesday's strip, a character bearing a remarkable likeness to Sembler captures the appointment to Australia with a bid of \$110,000. Someone asks whether he has a connection to Australia. "No, no," he says. "I just promised the kids a country where they could surf."

The Senate Foreign Relations Committee last month recommended confirmation of Zappala, by 10-9, and recommended Sembler's nomination on a voice vote. The two nominations will come up for Senate confirmation when Congress reconvenes after Labor Day. Sembler and Zappala, who have

refused newspaper interviews while their nominations are pending, could not be reached.

Sembler conveyed a one-sentence response through his executive secretary: "You really need a good sense of humor when you get into politics."

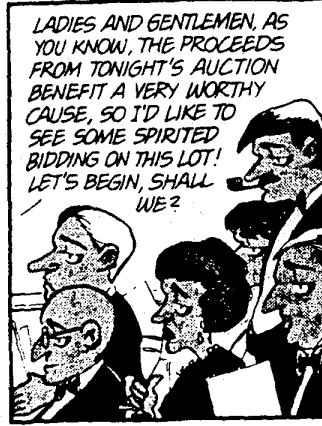
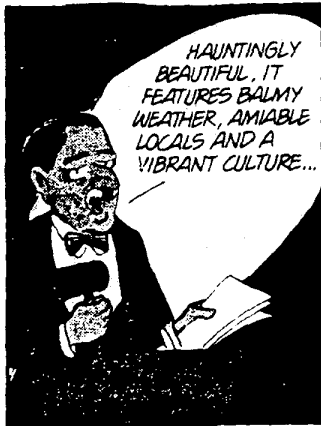
In Saturday's strip, an ambassador-designate to Denmark is congratulated. "Denmark isn't just gaining a Bush campaign supporter — they're getting a dear friend of the administration," says a cocktail party guest. "Yeah, yeah . . . I guess that's right," the character says. "Actually, I gave \$100,000 to the Democrats, too."

Adds his wife: "Just in case. We've been dying to get out of Texas."

August 21, 1989

DOONESBURY

By Garry Trudeau

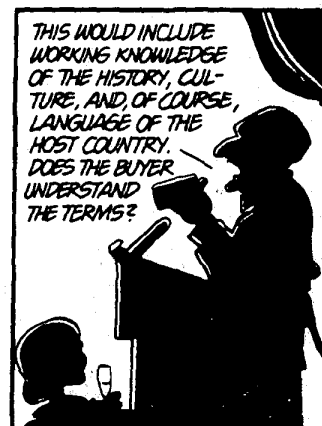
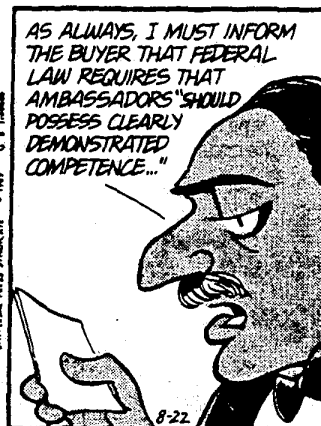


By Garry Trudeau

August 22, 1989

DOONESBURY

By Garry Trudeau



By Garry Trudeau

# Nominee's sister was drug dealer

By IVAN J. HATHAWAY  
and BRUCE DUDLEY  
Tribune Staff Writers

TAMPA — The sister of the newly appointed U.S. ambassador to Spain is a convicted cocaine dealer who agreed to testify against other drug dealers to avoid prison.

Joseph Zappala is chairman of the Florida Republican Party Victory Committee, the chief fund-raising arm of the state GOP. He is co-founder and current president of Straight Inc., which operates drug-rehabilitation centers.

Meanwhile, his older sister, Angela Zappala Lee, 56, lives in another state for her own protection. She makes regular trips back to circuit court in Tampa to comply with her part of a deal that landed her five years probation instead of at least 15 years in prison.

Lee was busted with 2 pounds of cocaine in July and began cooperating soon after, but prosecutors say they didn't even know she was Zappala's sister until a few weeks ago, after they cut the deal.

Zappala didn't return telephone calls Tuesday. His secretary said he wouldn't comment.

But Bruce Baynard, who identified himself as an associate of Zappala's, said the Pinellas County developer is not close to his sister and didn't know about her problems until about a week ago.

He said the arrest illustrates why Zappala is so committed to his work with Straight.

"This gives all the more reason to get rid of drugs," Baynard said. It shows that the drug problem "touches all aspects of society."

President Bush appointed Zappala ambassador to Spain on Feb.

See DEFENDANT, Page 87

# Defendant assists in drug cases

From Page 1B

13. The FBI is conducting a background check and the appointment must be reviewed by the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. No time has been scheduled.

Jeanie Austin, former Florida Republican Party chairwoman and now vice chairwoman of the national Republican Party, said Lee's problems shouldn't affect Zappala's chances to be ambassador.

"It blows my mind," Austin said. "You pick your friends. You don't pick your family."

Lee got into trouble when a confidential informant went to Hillsborough sheriff's detectives with word that "Angela" was moving cocaine from her rented home at 5462 Pentail Circle, northwest of Carrollwood.

Detectives raided the home July 27 and found 2 pounds of cocaine stashed in her bathtub, a scale on the kitchen counter and \$30,000 in her bedroom.

Lee then agreed to provide "substantial assistance" to law enforcement in exchange for probation. While she was turning in other cocaine dealers, her brother was working as a major fund-raiser for Bush's presidential campaign.

Zappala contributed \$100,000 to the campaign and was co-chairman of the successful effort to raise \$25 million for the new president.

Zappala, a 55-year-old land developer and investor, also teamed with fellow Pinellas developer Mel Sembler to raise money for Bush's inaugural.

Last week, Lee was back in Tampa testifying in one of at least a half-dozen drug cases she helped make. Monday night, a jury convicted a 30-year-old mother of three, who had no prior record.

As the father comforted, the wailing children, a judge handed Kim Butcher a mandatory 15-year sentence for conspiring to deliver more than 400 grams of cocaine.

Butcher, testifying in her own defense, said Lee coerced and threatened her into helping with a drug deal. Butcher said Lee told her she and her brother joined Bush for lunch when he campaigned for president in Tampa.

Butcher said Lee made her read a news story about Zappala and told her that Lee's family was powerful



Angela Lee received a lighter sentence in exchange for her testimony.

and had the connections to harm Butcher if she didn't play along. Prosecutors didn't try to disprove Butcher's account.

Baynard, Zappala's associate, said the story that Zappala and Lee had lunch with Bush was "absolutely fabricated."

Felony division chief Stephen Crawford said prosecutors were not concerned with Lee's relatives.

"Earlier this month we flew her into town for depositions and that's when we found out," Crawford said.

"But we really don't care. It had no effect on her prosecution and, for that matter, in the Butcher case, it had no effect on the jury."

"The cases (against the other defendants) already had been made and the decision (to offer her probation) had been made before we knew who her brother was," Crawford said.

Two brothers went on trial two weeks ago in what have come to be called "the Lee cases." They were acquitted. No one questioned Lee about her relationship to Zappala during that trial.

Four more defendants in "the Lee cases" await trial this spring.

Lee pleaded guilty Nov. 21 to trafficking in more than 400 grams of cocaine. Circuit Judge Edward H. Ward sentenced her to two years house arrest followed by five years probation.

The judge ordered that Lee submit to random drug screens, undergo a drug evaluation, receive treatment if necessary and perform 100 hours of community service.

The house arrest portion of the sentence was eliminated when lawyers told the judge that Lee needed to leave Florida for her protection.

Staff writer Ron Bartlett contributed to this report.

St. Petersburg Times

Publication Date: 5/3/87

Page: 1A

HD: Going Straight // The story of a young man's struggle against his addiction to drugs

BY: DAVID FINKEL

SE: Going Straight

EX: First of five parts

Sitting tensely in a chair, he is a young man not to be messed with, a coil of barbed wire. His mouth is in a sneer. His eyes could burn holes. His name is Paul Kulek, and he's doing his best to look as if he's in control.

But in truth, he is just a 15-year-old boy with skinny arms, and when the clipboard with the admission form is handed to him, he begins to cry.

He is on the verge of entering a drug rehabilitation program called Straight, an intensive, high-pressure program that could take a year of his young life to complete. His parents think he has been smoking too much marijuana, and they want him in.

But he is scared.

He looks at the clipboard, and the words blur. He looks up, and there are his parents. His mother is crying. His father is biting his lip.

Already, they have heard their son admit he not only has smoked pot, but he also has swallowed speed, inhaled gasoline and toyed with the idea of shooting himself.

"You qualify for our program," Steve Knowles, an official with Straight, had said after the last of those revelations.

Now, motioning toward the clipboard, Knowles asks Paul if he is ready to sign himself in. He turns on a tape recorder. He asks Paul to read the admission form aloud. A few seconds go by, and then, in a voice that isn't much more than a whisper, Paul begins to read.

"I hereby give my volun ..."

The word is voluntary. But he can't finish it. His face contorts. Tears spill.

"I ain't gonna do this," he cries.

His father looks at him. "You got to," he says.

His mother looks at him. "You need to," she says. "We want to save you."

He begins crying harder. "I don't want to," he says. He buries his face in his hands.

The date is March 31, 1986. Outside the room, there is a refreshing breeze. Palms rustle, clouds float along, cars go by with windows down. For anyone else on the Suncoast, it is a beautiful, spring morning.

But for Paul and his parents, life on this day seems as terrible as it can get.

Discovering the problem

They come from St. Petersburg and Clearwater, from Pinellas and Hillsborough, from Florida and Texas and Michigan. A dozen times a month, 150 times a year, weeping parents and scowling children make a final attempt at reconciliation in a plain, warehouse-sized building in mid-Pinellas County.

This is Straight-Tampa Bay, a drug rehabilitation program where boasts of success are matched only by the notoriety of the methods.

The boasts: In six out of 10 cases, a defiant, drug-addicted teen-ager will be changed into someone who has given up drugs for the deeper pleasures of family, school and God.

The methods, at least initially: No living at home. No talking to parents. No contact with anyone outside the program. No drugs. No cigarettes. No TV. No music. No reading. No school. And a daily onslaught of counseling sessions that often reduces a person to tears.

Eventually, the person is allowed to read, does move back home, does return to school. But such things can take a year or more, all depending upon how well the person behaves as he progresses through the program.

"Drug treatment is different," is what Bill Oliver, executive director of the Straight Foundation, says in defense of the methods.

"This is not a normal world."

The idea for all of this began in 1976, when Straight officially opened, taking up where another program called The Seed had left off.

Like Straight, The Seed was designed to end a young person's drug use through a lengthy, unrelenting program of peer pressure. It was disbanded, however, after an independently prepared report compared its methods "to highly refined brainwashing techniques employed by the North Koreans during the 1950s."

Straight was intended to be a bit gentler than that, and, for the most part, it has been. Over the past 11 years, more than 6,000 people between the ages of 12 and 21 have been treated in a program that not only seeks to end an addict's drug addiction, but also to resolve the family problems that led to the addiction in the first place. "You are in the best drug rehabilitation program in the country," parents are constantly told.

Still, Straight's record hasn't been perfect. There have been continual allegations of mistreatment over the years, including complaints of physical abuse, false imprisonment, brainwashing and cultism.

Many of these allegations were explained away as unfounded grudges; the program is radical, Straight officials say, and so complaints have to be expected. But some that couldn't be explained away turned into highly publicized lawsuits, one of which cost Straight \$220,000 in damages when a jury found a young man had been held in the program for several months against his will.

After that particular lawsuit, officials say, they modified some of their procedures. For a brief time, there was a noticeable dip in admissions, they say, but now enrollment is back up, and branches of the program have successfully opened in eight cities around the country, with five more in the planning stages.

Such dramatic growth isn't exclusive to Straight; these days, drug rehabilitation programs seem to be everywhere. Just in Florida, there are more than 200 licensed programs, according to state health officials.

But Straight, it seems, has always been the one to stand out. When Nancy Reagan wanted to visit a drug program in 1982, she chose Straight. When Princess Diana wanted to see one, she saw Straight, too. Countless articles have been written about Straight's unorthodox methods. A movie has been made. Much of the publicity has been negative, but through it all Straight has stayed in business, growing from a small program in St. Petersburg to one of the largest in the country.

Because of all this - the allegations, the lawsuits, the publicity - parents bringing their children to Straight often know of the problems of the past. Yet they keep coming, and no wonder: In a time

when children as young as 8 are undergoing drug rehabilitation, the success stories of Straight can sound truly comforting to a parent who is desperate.

That's how it was for Paul's parents, Bill and Julie Kulek.

"I realize it's been a controversial thing," says Julie. "I had some people tell me, 'Your kid's going to come back like a zombie, he's going to be brainwashed, he'll be a religious freak.'"

"But we heard the good things, too. And I think the good things outweighed the bad."

In many ways, Paul doesn't typify the teen-ager who becomes dependent on drugs. There's no single, obvious problem that set him spinning off. What he does typify is the type of person that Straight tends to attract: white, middle-teens, a child of suburbia who grew up with most of the advantages. If there is a lesson in his drug use, it is that even in families where there is an abundance of love and the motives are good, things can still get out of control.

He was born April 2, 1970, Julie's second child, her first son. She remembers holding him just after his birth and feeling a rush of gratitude that he was so handsome and healthy.

"We have thought back: What didn't we do?" she says now. "Or what did we do that we shouldn't have?"

His early years, she says, were happy ones. When she divorced her first husband, Paul seemed to adjust easily. When she married Bill two years later and they adopted each other's children, he seemed to adjust again.

"Easy-going," is how she describes her little boy who imitated a TV commercial one day by climbing into the washer and staying there until she came looking for him. "Paul," she called, walking into the laundry room. The lid flew open. Up he jumped. "There's a giant in your washer," he said and dissolved into giggles.

Memories like those, she says, make it that much harder to understand the changes in him that began a few years ago.

In sixth grade, he gave up his old friends, the ones he had stuck with through thick and thin. In seventh grade, he began smoking cigarettes. In eighth grade, his grades dropped noticeably, and he was suspended from school for fighting.

He began taking things that didn't belong to him. Lighters disappeared. So did a pen knife. So did bracelets belonging to his sister, and \$134 in change that Julie had been keeping on a shelf. So did a gold charm he had given his mother for Mother's Day.

"You always blame me for everything," Paul answered when confronted. Indignant, he would storm out of the house - and then go off on his bicycle in search of more drugs.

Usually he bought them from friends. Sometimes he would make do with typewriter correcting fluid or gasoline. One time, in search of pot, he went to a rundown section of Tampa and gave \$20 to a street dealer who pocketed the money and then poured some spices and crushed leaves into Paul's hand. Paul tried to give it back, but the man wouldn't take it. Paul fished out a knife he carried with him. The man saw it and swung at Paul, and then Paul sliced him across his chest. He pedaled away fast, a 12-year-old with a bloody knife. He was scared - but not scared enough to keep from wiping the blood off, going to another part of town later and exchanging the knife for enough pot to last the rest of the day.

His parents knew none of this. They did know that their son was sometimes taunted because he was so skinny, and that he seemed to have an especially deep need for acceptance. Eventually they realized such needs can translate into drug use, but they didn't know for sure about Paul until the day when Bill, who was working at a laboratory, demanded a sample of Paul's urine, took it to work and ran tests on it.

After the test came out positive, Bill did another. After that one came out positive, things grew steadily worse.

Day-to-day life disintegrated into constant fighting. One weekend in Naples, Paul ran through a parking lot, bending and snapping off car antennae until the police finally cornered him.

Julie, who says she almost never hit Paul when he was a small child, still gets upset when she tells of walking up to him in the parking lot that night, looking at him, looking at what he had done and slapping him hard across the face.

And then his reaction: "He took it so lightly."

"He was really getting into it," says Bill. "I'd say the last month to two months, it was every day."

"I would say he put a very bad strain on our marriage," says Julie. "It was constant arguing. About school work. About going out. You can't stop me from taking pot." Bill and I were arguing, we hardly ever argue. I hated to be home."

"He was really getting bold," says Bill.

"Defiant," says Julie.

"I think he was asking to get caught," says Bill. "He knew he was going to get caught."

"I don't wanna do this!"

So they have come to Straight for help. They are a bit sickened by what they are doing, but they are more sickened by what their lives have become.

They sit in the office of Steve Knowles, who turns to Paul and says, "Paul, do you know where we're at?"

Paul shakes his head. No.

In fact, he doesn't. He thinks he is at a family counselor. He thinks he will blow this whole thing off in an hour and be back home in time to get high before lunch. He slumps in his chair, one hand resting on a Walkman, which his parents gave him the day before as a three-day-early birthday present. He is a bit high from some marijuana he smoked just after he woke up.

"I'm going to be up front," Knowles says. "You're at a program called Straight."

Paul says nothing to this. But his muscles immediately tighten, and his expression goes hard. He stays this way, taut and unmoving, as Knowles explains that Paul's parents think he has a serious problem with drugs.

"Do you smoke pot?" Knowles asks him.

Paul nods.

"How much?"

"Whatever I can get," Paul says.

"Are you comfortable with me asking these questions?" Knowles asks.

Paul shakes his head no. And his eyes suddenly become wet.

Thirty minutes go by. "He thinks we can't tell when he's on pot," says Bill, "but he comes in with his eyes bugged out and shiny."

An hour goes by. "People have told me it's gonna kill me," Paul says. "Well, it hasn't killed me."

Ninety minutes go by and two young men already in Straight are escorted into the room. Ricky, who says he has "done pot, alcohol, ups and downs," tells Paul about the program, which lasts a minimum of 178 days. Then Matt - "pot, alcohol, acid, mushrooms, cocaine, ups, downs" - recites the rules:

No TV, radio, reading. No makeup. No jewelry. No dating. No hitchhiking. "No druggie friends or hangouts." Knock before entering a room. Spend nights at the homes of others in the program. "Hang on tight to newcomers by the belt loop."

Paul sits wordlessly, a blank wall. He gives no indication whether

any of this is sinking in. There is a long silence. "The end result," Knowles finally says, "is you qualify for our program."

He hands over the clipboard with the admission form on it. He mentions that if Paul doesn't sign himself in, his parents could seek a court order forcing him in. Paul looks at the admission form and begins to cry. He says he wants to go home. He says, "I have to go in on my birthday almost? My birthday? Today?"

"Yes," Knowles says.

"I'd like to have a birthday," he says, almost pleading.

"That's why we had your birthday yesterday," Bill explains to him.

"And he didn't even want to be there," Julie says.

"You have to be strong, Paul," Bill says.

"I'm strong, but I don't wanna do this."

"You have to," Bill says.

"Would you just try it, Paul?" Julie says. "Please? Would you do it for me?"

Paul shakes his head no. "It ain't hurting me, so I'm gonna keep doing it."

"Paul, it is hurting you," his mother says. "It's hurting you at home, it's hurting you at school, it's hurting you in the fact that you're losing good friends."

"If you sign this, you're in control," Knowles says. "If you do it through the courts, you lose some of your rights."

"I'd rather you sign the paper yourself rather than we go to court and ask them to put you in here," Julie says.

More silence. They have been at this for two hours now. Julie fights tears, and Paul hides his face in his hands.

"We'll be right behind you," Bill says.

Paul doesn't move.

"Okay?" says Julie, who sounds as if she won't be able to hang on much longer.

"Okay?" says Bill. He leans forward. He pats Paul on the knee.

"Please try it," Julie says. She is begging.

Paul looks up and picks up the clipboard. Slowly, he reads aloud what it says, that he is entering the program without coercion. Julie finally loses her fragile balance and begins to weep. So does Bill. Paul reads on. He picks up a pen and signs his name at the bottom of the form.

He is in.

"I'm going to ask you to give your cigarettes and your tape player to your mother," Knowles says.

"I don't get to smoke?" Paul asks, incredulously.

"Do you want me to take his watch and rings, too?" Julie asks quickly, avoiding Paul's question.

"I don't wanna stop smoking!" Paul yells.

Knowles motions for the cigarettes.

"I don't wanna do this!" Paul yells.

Knowles keeps motioning.

"Goddamnit!" Paul yells. He takes the cigarettes from his pocket and throws them at his mother. She flinches when they hit her.

"Goddamnit!" he yells again. He takes the tape recorder and throws it at his father.

"Here," he screams. "Take everything you ever gave me!"

He gets up. So do the two boys already in Straight. They grab him by the belt loops and lead him out the door, leaving Bill and Julie wondering if their son will ever find it in his heart to forgive them.

Next: Fifty days away from home

About Straight

Eleven years after it opened in St. Petersburg, Straight has become a



national drug abuse program with eight branches in seven states and five more branches planned. As of April 1987, more than 6,000 young people between the ages of 12 and 21 had been admitted for treatment. Here is a list of the branches and their current enrollment figures:

Straight-Tampa Bay  
(pictured above)

Date opened: September 1976

Enrollment: 112

Straight-Atlanta

Date opened: August 1981

Enrollment: 77

Straight-Cincinnati

Date opened: January 1982

Enrollment: 78

Straight-Greater Washington D.C.

(location: Springfield, Va.)

Date opened: October 1982

Enrollment: 249

Straight-Orlando

Date opened: June 1985

Enrollment: 90

Straight-New England (Boston)

Date opened: December 1985

Enrollment: 151

Straight-Detroit

Date opened: January 1986

Enrollment: 100

Straight-Dallas

Date opened: June 1986

Enrollment: 114

Plans call for branches to open in Los Angeles and Seattle in late 1987 and in St. Louis, Chicago and Norfolk, Va., in 1988.

About the series

This series was begun 16 months ago when officials of Straight, responding to a request from the St. Petersburg Times, consented to allow a Times reporter to follow a person through its drug-rehabilitation program. Among the conditions agreed to by Straight were these:

The Times would choose the person to follow.

The Times would have unrestricted access to the person.

The Times would be able to follow the person's progress from the moment he first entered the program.

Times reporter David Finkel sat in on several admission interviews before Paul Kulek and his family were chosen on March 31, 1986, to be the subjects of the series. While keeping continual track of Paul's progress, the Times decided not to publish any stories in the series until he had left the program so as not to interfere with his chances for success.

SC: NATIONAL

PG: 1A

AT: drug\$ profile biography

SU: Straight Incorporated

TY: SERIES

CR: COLOR PHOTO, (4); BLACK AND WHITE PHOTO, Bill

Serne; BLACK AND WHITE PHOTO, (2)

CU: Paul Kulek on admission to Straight Inc.; baby picture of Paul and sister Jodie; Paul, age 12; Paul, age 8; Straight-Tampa Bay branch; Julie Kulek; Bill Kulek

AR: Straight Inc.: 87

St. Petersburg Times

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Page: 1A

HD: Going Straight // Part 2: The first 50 days in the program

BY: DAVID FINKEL

SE: Going Straight

EX: They found the bag of pot, even though he had hidden it in his underwear. He thought it was safe there. But then they told him to undress for a strip search, and the bag fell out to the floor. "Pot?" they said, not surprised.

They found the rolling papers, too, even though he had hidden them in the lining of his shoe.

His name is Paul Kulek. He was two days shy of his 16th birthday. A few hours before, he had awakened in his home in Tampa. He had thrown on some clothes, ducked outside and smoked some pot. Then he got in the car with his parents, Bill and Julie Kulek, who drove him to a plain-looking building just north of St. Petersburg.

Paul didn't know where he was. He thought he was at a family counselor. Only when he was inside did he learn that his parents had brought him to a drug rehabilitation program called Straight.

For two hours, he resisted admitting himself to the program. His mother begged. His father cried. He listened to them, stoned as could be. He cried, too, and then began throwing things.

Now, here he was, signed in, still a bit high, in a room with two other young men enrolled in the program. Their hair was short. They kept saying the word "druggie." Every time he stood up, they grabbed him by his belt loops.

"How do you get high in this place?" he asked them.

"You don't," they said.

They asked him to strip. They checked his shoes. They ran their fingers along his shirt collar, feeling for bulges.

His urine was tested. His blood was taken. He was asked to list what drugs he had taken.

He was led by his belt loops down a hallway, through a guarded door and into a huge room with a concrete floor. Fifty young people were crowded together in there, seated in close rows of blue plastic chairs. They were jerking their hands in the air so frantically that the room was filled with snapping sounds.

"Okay, listen up!" someone yelled. "This is Paul. He's done pot, alcohol, cocaine, mushrooms, LSD and speed. He's from Tampa. Does anyone know him?"

Fifty heads turned. Paul stood there, feeling them look him over. He knew no one. He had nothing to say.

But they had something to say to him.

"Love you, Paul!" they shouted in unison. Then their hands shot back into the air, and the room was filled again with snapping sounds.

"The humbling phase"

In Straight, there is a name for everything.

"Making amends," for instance, is apologizing, usually tearfully, for bad behavior.

"Motivating" is waving your hand in the air to be called on to speak, waving it so hard that your arm aches and you begin to perspire.

"Commencing" is graduating from the program.

And "First Phase" is what Paul entered into on March 31, 1986,

the initial stage of a five-phase program that takes an average of 12 months to complete.

Straight, based in mid-Pinellas County, is one of the nation's largest, and perhaps most controversial, drug rehabilitation programs. Over the past 11 years it has treated more than 6,000 young drug abusers under an elaborate theory of rehabilitation that - at its simplest - uses peer pressure, guilt, despair and finally joy, to help a person realize how damaging drug use can be.

The five phases are the skeleton of the program. Each is designed to replace a person's dependence on drugs with more intrinsic pleasures, such as a strengthened family. All of the phases are designed to be intensive and difficult. But First Phase is usually the most difficult of all because of the abrupt changes it brings to a drug user's life.

One day he is hanging out, getting high.

And the next, he is sealed in a room with dozens of other drug abusers, not allowed to speak unless spoken to, led everywhere by his belt loops to show he has lost control of his life.

He is in the room at least 10 hours a day, six days a week. He spends nights in the unfamiliar homes of others in the program. He is cut off from his home, parents, school, friends, music, TV and books. The only things he can do are talk about his feelings and listen as others in the program tear his life apart.

"First Phase," says staff member Mike Dean, "is the humbling phase."

It is the phase to break down resistance. It goes on for at least 14 days and often for months. It lasts until the person learns to dig out his secrets, to motivate until he aches, to make amends until he cries. Only when he is feeling worthless and miserable is he considered to be making progress.

Then, slowly, come the rewards.

The first is something called "talk," which means that he can speak face-to-face with his parents at Straight for 20 minutes a week.

The second is "talk and responsibility," which means that in addition to speaking with his parents, he can also stand guard at doors to make sure that no one runs away from the program.

Finally, when he admits his dependence on drugs and convinces the staff he wants to change, he earns Second Phase, which means that he can return to his home to sleep for the first time since entering the program. Then come phases three, four and five.

Each phase comes with its own set of hurdles, but it is the methods of First Phase that have caused the bulk of complaints about Straight, including allegations of physical and mental abuse. Other than some fine-tuning, though, Straight officials have stuck to their methods, insisting they are the best in the country.

"We know how to do it," says Bill Oliver, executive director of the Straight Foundation. "You've got to play it our way."

Still, to someone entering the program, the methods can seem disconcerting. All doors are guarded. Kids stand up, start talking and end up crying. Everyone yells "Love you!" whenever someone finishes speaking. And every hour or so, there is a group sing-along to tunes such as a Zip-a-Dee-Doo-Dah, which for some reason is sung in an odd, almost-brooding cadence.

Paul's reaction that first day was to take all this in and scowl. Like just about everyone entering the program, he thought he could beat it by playing along. He'd be home in no time.

He was led by a belt loop to the front row and given a chair. He slumped and looked at his shoes.

"What's your name?" someone asked.

"Paul," he said.

"Sit up, Paul."

"Acting like a jerk"

He didn't.

He didn't sit up, he didn't talk, he didn't stop scowling. For two days, he didn't do anything except slouch and watch.

He saw a boy stand up and begin throwing wild punches. Chairs scattered, and five other young men tackled him to the floor, pinning his arms and legs until he calmed down.

He listened to a graduate who had checked himself back into the program explain how he felt about falling back into drug use: "I feel embarrassed. I feel ashamed. I feel guilty."

He watched 50 young people spastically wave their arms just so they could be called on to share the most trivial of memories:

"I remember when we used to go to the drive-in movies, and we'd take those Charlie Chip potato chip cans and sit on 'em ..."

"Love you!"

"I remember going over to a friend's house and watching wrestling on TV ..."

"Love you!"

"I remember when I'd catch tadpoles ..."

"Love you!"

But mixed in with this were also moments that Paul couldn't help but absorb. There was talk of parents who slap, of brothers who taunt, of friends who betray, of first love, of sex, of guilt, of misery, of breakdowns.

"I guess what he wanted out of me was drugs and sex," a girl wept one day, explaining how her boyfriend had taken advantage of her. "But I didn't care, I guess, because I was lonely."

"I've never done anything right in my life. I never have, and I never will," a young man named John said later, sobbing. "I've disappointed my parents so much." He cried harder and harder until he grew wobbly. He began gasping for breath as if he had been punched in the stomach. "I feel like I'm going to pass out. I feel like I'm high. I feel jittery. I'm so scared ..."

If any of this made Paul want to change his ways, though, he didn't show it. He turned out to be a fighter.

He slouched. He threw punches. He threw chairs. He kept trying to withdraw from the program until his mother threatened to have him put in there by court order.

"He is acting like a little jerk," one staff member wrote in an evaluation on Day 15, about the time he could have been moving onto Second Phase.

"Still being a jerk," was the comment a week later.

On his 11th day in the program, he had to be tackled to the floor and restrained. On his 16th day, according to a staff report: "Paul got angry and started to hit the guys next to him. He was restrained on the floor ... Craig (another young man in Straight) was bitten on his left arm, but no medical attention was necessary."

On Day 26, he threw water on people. On Day 30: another fight, another bite.

While others talked tearfully about their drug use, he sat morosely in his chair. He found a staple and began carving on his arm until it was covered with long, red scratches. He tried to hit his head on the concrete floor when he was being restrained.

One day, he broke a light fixture and was sent to something called the "Time-Out Room." He was kept in there a long time. After a while, he lay flat on the floor, peered out the crack under the door and watched the group. From that distance, the motivating and the "Love You's" didn't seem so bad to him. But when he returned to the group, he wouldn't say a thing.

Critics of Straight say this is one of the most dangerous times in the program, the time when a young person, cut off so long from everything he knows, finally buckles under emotional starvation. He has been in the program for weeks, day and night. He changes, but only because his resistance has been beaten down. He succumbs rather than progresses.

Straight officials say this isn't simply so, that there comes a time when a person finally sees there is a better way to live a life. That, they say, is the strength of what is called peer counseling: If a person sees others like himself making changes, he'll want to make changes, too.

First trip home

Whatever the reasons in Paul's case, he did, in fact, finally begin to change. It happened a few days after the worst incident of all, the day he tried to punch someone hard enough to injure him.

He had been in Straight more than a month. He was sick of the whole thing. Someone told him to sit up, and he swung hard, hitting the young man square in the face. He was tackled and restrained. The police were called. Charges were threatened. And a few days later, he began to turn himself around.

He stood in front of the group and apologized for the way he had behaved. He began motivating so fiercely that he woke up the next day with a sore neck.

"He would cry," staff member Mike Dean said, recalling Paul's changes. "He would say, 'I don't want to go back to my past.' He would say, 'I don't want to go back to my friends who teased me. I'm scared.' He was scared to be straight because the only way he could have friends was through acceptance, and he felt if he gave up drugs, he wouldn't have any friends."

Just as the young man named John had said he felt a few weeks before, Paul felt high, jittery. Perhaps it was the relief of unburdening, the rush that comes with confession, but he was exhilarated. He poured his heart out every chance he got. He motivated so hard, he made snapping sounds as his fingers flew against each other. He cried huge tears.

On Day 36, he earned the privilege of talking to his parents for the first time since entering the program. He hugged them, apologized for what he had put them through and hugged them again.

On Day 43, he earned "talk and responsibility," and he began guarding doors.

Finally, on Day 50, he asked for permission to enter Second Phase and go home.

"A screaming eagle," Straight's then-associate director, Charles Larsen, said at a staff meeting to decide what to do about Paul's request. "He's a little kid, but he was going berserk for a while."

"Paul's come a long way," said another staff member, Scott Rebane. "I think that guy needs support at home."

"How's his family feel about it?" Larsen said.

"They'll probably be real excited after 50 days of hell," staff member John Johnson said. "Paul's going to wet his pants."

"Fifty days and 50 nights? It's time for him to go home," Larsen said.

Paul found out that evening.

When he heard staff members call out his name, he stood apprehensively. When he heard, "You're going home," he broke into a huge grin and began to cry as friends came over to embrace him.

It was a Monday evening. Bill and Julie, Paul's parents, were in an adjoining room, gathered with other parents for their weekly Monday night meeting. He pushed open the door to their room and burst in.

"Coming home!" he yelled.

He ran across the room. His parents stood. He tumbled into the arms of his mother, who burst into tears. His father put his arms around his wife and son and closed his eyes.

In Straight, the announcement of making Second Phase is purposely designed to be a deeply emotional, uplifting scene, and in Paul's case that certainly happened.

While everyone else in the room applauded this latest example of how Straight can work wonders, the three of them stood holding tightly onto each other, a weeping mountain of a family.

A sense of accomplishment

An hour later, off they went, home.

"This is the phase where you're going to learn what Straight is all about," one of the parents had said to them as they prepared to leave.

"I just hope his dog doesn't bite him," Bill answered, laughing.

It had been a long haul. Fifty days had passed, and Paul was an inch taller and 12 pounds heavier. He sat between his parents as they drove north on I-275, across the Howard Frankland Bridge, into north Tampa, into their neighborhood.

They would be back at Straight the next day, and the day after. They would be back for at least the next 5 1/2 months, the minimum amount of time it would take for Paul to complete the program. Anything could happen. Some people take two years to finish the program, only to sink back into drug use. Some never finish.

But for the moment, in this family, there was a deep sense of accomplishment. Paul, especially, glowed.

Thinking back to the day he was first taken to Straight, he said, "It was real scary. They all talked funny. They all looked funny. And then, when they said, 'Love You,' I thought it was a gay-love place."

About his first afternoon there, he said, "I sat there thinking of ways I could do drugs. I went to the bathroom and saw a plunger and thought of hitting the guy in the face and running out of there."

About scratching up his arm: "The feelings, they build up. It gets out the frustrations, the anger. And each time you dig deeper it's like the anger comes out. You don't feel the pain until later."

About trying to hit his head against the floor: "I really thought I was crazy."

About a family he had stayed with for several nights: "It was like how I wanted my family. There was a sister and mother and father, just like mine. I kept imagining they were my family, and I didn't want to let them down."

About earning Second Phase: "When I ran across the floor, it's like I saw the whole 50 days in front of me, all the bad and good things, all the way from the beginning. They say it's like running through Jell-O, like it takes a million years to get there. But when I got there to my Mom, it was worth it."

About seeing his house again after so long: "Home's great."

He walked in the front door.

The dog remembered him.

Everything looked familiar.

But back in his bedroom, upon directions from Straight, he discovered there had been changes.

His walls had been stripped of every poster he had carefully put up - posters of rock groups such as Motley Crue and AC-DC. The entire room, blue when he left, had been painted beige. The dresser had been moved into another room so he wouldn't have a place to hide things. His desk had been emptied, moved into his closet, and the closet locked. The headboard of his bed had been sanded down where he had carved the words "Motley Crue."

An alarm had been installed on the window in case he tried to sneak

out.

The door had an alarm, too.

Nonetheless, as Paul walked through the home he hadn't seen in so long, his smile was wide as could be.

He ate some food. He petted his dog. He played with his hamster. He was not yet allowed to watch TV or listen to music so he talked with his parents. Midnight came and went.

Finally, his mother walked him down the hallway and hugged him. He went into his room of bare walls and a bed. She closed the door behind him and activated the alarm.

"Goodnight," she said.

Next: What a parent goes through

A day at Straight

A day at Straight begins early and lasts long. From the time they arrive until they leave, those enrolled in the program take part in continuous "rap sessions," discussions that range from reciting the rules of Straight to talking about intimate and troubling problems. Most of the sessions are led by graduates of the program who have joined the staff. Each day's schedule is different - Friday sessions, for instance, can last until midnight - but the schedule of a typical day is as follows:

6:30 a.m. The building opens. Clients begin arriving.

9 a.m. All clients should be present. Attendance is taken. Medication for those with illnesses such as headaches and asthma is dispensed (sick call). The clients take their seats and begin singing songs in unison such as Straight Is It (sung to Coke Is It).

9:15 a.m. "Basics Rap." In this, clients are called on to recite the 12 steps of the program (modeled after the 12 steps of Alcoholics Anonymous), such as admitting a dependency on drugs and a need for spiritual help.

10 a.m. "Morning Rap." This discussion is meant to get clients talking about such aspects of their lives as how they used to get high and how they feel about it now.

Noon lunch and open discussion.

1 p.m. "Guys" Rap and Girls" Rap." The group is separated; the males go to one room, the females to another. Discussions deal with self-image, personal problems and sexuality. Often the most intense discussion of the day.

3 p.m. Exercise.

3:30 p.m. "Afternoon Rap." This session deals with problems clients are having such as family crises or coping with the demands of the program. Though short, it also can be intense and heavily confrontive.

4:15 p.m. Dinner, sick call, open discussion.

4:45 p.m. "Rules Rap." Clients recite the rules of the program, such as the importance of honesty, the prohibition against newcomers talking to other newcomers and the procedure for withdrawing from the program.

5:15 p.m. "Night Rap." This is intended to be an emotional, uplifting discussion that will leave the clients in a somewhat positive mood. Topics might include friendship and learning to accept others.

6:45 p.m. Sick call, reciting the Lord's prayer, arranging the evening's sleeping accommodations, lining up heel-to-toe at the door for dismissal.

7 p.m. Dismissal.

SC: NATIONAL

PG: 1A

AT: drug\$ juvenile

TY: SERIES

CR: COLOR PHOTO, Cherie Diez, (2); BLACK AND WHITE PHOTO, Cherie Diez

CU: "Motivating" is waving your hand in the air to be called on to speak, waving it so hard that your arm aches and you begin to perspire; Newcomers to Straight are led around by their belt loops to symbolize how they have lost control of their lives; At Straight, Paul Kulek sits in front of signs listing the 12 steps of the program, modeled after those used by Alcoholics Anonymous.

ED: CITY