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Local

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Section B

Parents Of Runaway From Straight Defend Drug-Treatment Program

By RUSS NUGENT
Herald-Tribune Reporter

The parents of the 15-year-old girl who pleaded with authorities not to return her to a Sarasota drug rehabilitation clinic expressed their support for the program Thursday while criticizing authorities for keeping their daughter from them.

Jim and Gloria Noyes of Sarasota said what the state has done in not allowing them to see or talk to their daughter constitutes kidnapping, but, with no money left to spend on a lawyer, they say they are helpless in fighting to get their daughter back so they can continue to try to help her get over a drug dependence.

Meanwhile, their daughter, Samantha Monroe, who was initially ordered into the program in May 1982 by Circuit Judge Lynn Silvertooth, remains concealed from them in a temporary home arranged through the court system.

Until Tuesday night, Miss Monroe was a client in Straight Inc. and was in the third phase of the program, Mrs. Noyes said. While in that phase she was allowed

to do volunteer work and lived at home

But something happened that evening and the girl decided she did not want to return home, or to Straight. She pleaded with police to send her to Palms Hospital or the Juvenile Detention Center. Instead, she was given temporary housing in a foster home, from which she ran away the next morning when a case worker from Health and Rehabilitative Services showed up, Mrs. Noyes said.

Miss Monroe locked herself in a nearby van and authorities were called. She later was taken to the State Attorney's Office where she gave statements to investigators, Mrs. Noyes said.

Mrs. Noyes said she waited in the lobby of the State Attorney's Office for four hours, hoping to see her daughter. But she said that meeting never transpired.

She did not believe her daughter purposely turned herself in at the Police Department. Rather, she said, Samantha spotted her and another friend driving down Ringling Boulevard while looking for her and went inside rather than face

going back to Straight, which is where she was going to be taken.

The couple said that prior to Tuesday's incident Miss Monroe was showing improvement. But now the incident is just another episode of a nightmare that began three years ago when their daughter began taking drugs.

Since that time she had often run away from home and numerous treatment programs. Once she was arrested in the Los Angeles area and returned to Florida after she agreed to sign herself back in to Straight, Noyes said. On another occasion Mrs. Noyes was called to Memorial Hospital to see if the body of a young girl who was in the morgue was that of her daughter, she said. Because of those and other instances, she and her husband removed their telephone.

"I don't want to get any more calls at 2 a.m.," from the police notifying them. Samantha has been arrested, Noyes said.

Both parents said that despite the ad

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Straight

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verse publicity that **Straight** has gotten in the past months, they believe in the program and cite the many clients who no longer are involved with drugs as proof. Mrs. Noyes believes so much in the program, she is a volunteer nurse there, she said.

And neither parent believes stories of beatings or abuse from staff members or other patients at **Straight**. The only bruises the Samantha received while a patient were self-inflicted because she was looking for a way out, they said.

But with the latest episode **Straight** has said enough is enough, and Samantha is not allowed back into the program. Which leaves the Noyes' in another bind.

"I love my daughter and want to help her," Mrs. Noyes said. But they felt **Straight** was the best program for her. And money is a problem. Noyes estimated that they have spent "tens of thousands of dollars" while trying to get help for Samantha, and the money supply is simply tapped out.
