

Charlotte/DeSoto

Sports On Back Page

Thursday, September 15, 1983

Sarasota Herald-Tribune

Section B

Sarasota Herald-Tribune Thurs., Sept. 15, 1983—7-B CE

Second Juvenile Files Suit Against Drug Program

By MARK ZALOUDEK
Herald-Tribune Reporter
 A 17-year-old Sarasota youth who claims he was "locked behind iron bars at night with a Doberman pinscher stationed outside the door" of his foster home became the second Sarasota juvenile to file suit against Straight Inc. for its controversial drug treatment methods. The suit, filed Wednesday in Sarasota County Circuit

Court, seeks \$750,000 in compensatory and punitive damages through a trial by jury. Lawrence Taylor "Tay" charges he was beaten, deprived of bathroom facilities and proper food, medical attention and psychological guidance during the four months he was enrolled in Straight's Sarasota branch beginning in February 1981. was 15 years old at the time.

14-year-old brother, Benson, filed a \$1.1 million lawsuit against the drug rehabilitation program last week for conditions the younger claims he experienced in the program when he was 12. Since both plaintiffs are juveniles, their suits were filed through their mother, Marcia, by Sarasota attorney Larry Byrd. He charges that Tay was "falsely impris-

oned" in the facility and, as the result of four months of repeatedly running away from the program and being caught and returned, "suffered physical and psychological pain... and physical handicap." He said the physical handicap refers to a possible bladder injury the youth may have suffered when he was denied use of a bathroom except at certain times of the day.

inside the Cattlemen Road facility before it indefinitely suspended operations July 20. Several of those interviewed described various forms of physical contact to prod unruly clients into submission or to participate in group activities, but stated they believed such acts did

not constitute abuse. Florida law defines "battery" as touching another person against their will. Newcomers to the program were not allowed to remain home at night and were given shelter by the families of more advanced clients.

Byrd's two-count suit terms the boy's treatment in the program an "outrageous disregard" for his rights.

Former employees of Straight gave conflicting testimony to Assistant State Attorney David Levin earlier this year on practices used

Dr. Gerald J. Bannasch, and
 Dr. Vinod K. Bhatnager
are pleased to announce the association of
 Dr. Masood Z. Rehmani, Specialist
 In Child and Adolescent Psychiatry
and the opening of their new office at
 3300 South Tamiami Trail, Suite 4,
 Sarasota, FL 33579
 Phone No. 955-5503 On Sept. 19, 1983

Center For Handicapped Goal Of STAR Campaign

Herald-Tribune Report

An infant stimulation program is also slated