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## Drug program leaves Cleveland as quickly as it left Pinellas

Compiled from Times staff and wire reports

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CLEVELAND — The **Seed** Inc., an unorthodox drug abuse program that treated hundreds of youngsters in Cleveland since 1975, has quietly closed its center at the former St. Anthony's Home for Boys.

The staff returned to the corporate headquarters at Fort Lauderdale, Fla., taking the remaining clients with them. Seed's founder, Arthur R. Baker, could not be reached for comment.

Once Florida's largest drug treatment program, The Seed operated in Pinellas County from May of 1973 to October of 1975, when it suddenly closed and departed.

At that time the local admission fee was about \$1,000. The program used a variety of behavioral modification treatments.

The program's operation was both praised and criticized by parents and juvenile officials. Seed supporters claimed a 90 percent success rate in rehabilitating drug users. Opponents claimed that the program was psychologically harmful and that its finances were handled in secret.

A 1974 federal report likened treatment methods used by The Seed to "the highly refined 'brainwashing' techniques employed by the North Koreans in the early 1950's."

SOME CRITICS of the program charged that the youths were brainwashed. However, Dr. David G. Logan, assistant professor of psychiatry at Case Western Reserve University, said in a paper on Seed that 162 of 173 "druggies" treated in Cleveland between April 1976 and April 1977 were rehabilitated.

A youth commission official who sent four youngsters to the program said, "You get the feeling the kids are being brainwashed. Their mannerisms, their devotion to Seed — the clients dwell on it to the point of being brainwashed. Still, if I had to pick between being brainwashed by Seed or being brainwashed by drugs, I'd pick Seed."

He said the current \$5,000 fee for the program prevented him from referring more youths to **Seed**.

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