

CHAMBERS OF
CIRCUIT JUDGE
13TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF FLORIDA
COURTHOUSE ANNEX
TAMPA, FLORIDA 33602

HERBOTH S. RYDER

October 15, 1973

Honorable O. J. Keller, Secretary
Department of Health and
Rehabilitative Services
1323 Winewood Boulevard
Tallahassee, Florida 32301

Dear Secretary Keller:

I am enclosing the proposal prepared by Addiction Consultation and Evaluation, P.C. in regards to the survey of the Standards Manual for Drug Abuse Treatment and Education Programs, The Seed Inc., and the relationship of one to the other as well as whether the standards carry out the intent of the Florida Statutes, said survey to be conducted in accordance with the Governor's July request.

The sub-committee of the Florida State Drug Abuse Advisory Council has approved the employment of Addiction Consultation and Evaluation, P.C. for this purpose.

I met with Dr. Richard N. Katon, President of the Corporation, earlier this month and asked him to send to us this proposal. My review of the proposal leaves me to believe Dr. Katon has a full grasp of the situation and will provide a valuable and meaningful survey and report and, therefore, I recommend favorably and most highly contracting with Dr. Katon's firm for the project.

I would appreciate very much if the Health and Rehabilitative Services could prepare a contract to be executed by Addiction Consultation and Evaluation, P.C. and HRS as soon as possible so that the Governor's charge might be carried out with early dispatch. Dr. Katon would like to begin work during the week of November 5 and complete the survey by December 12 and I think we all would like the survey to be concluded before the end of the year.

When the contract has been drawn up, I will arrange for a time for HRS and Dr. Katon's firm to formally execute same, convenient with both parties scheduled.

Page 2

Honorable C. J. Keller

October 15, 1973

With kind regards, I am,

Sincerely,

HERBOTH S. RYDER
Chairman, Florida Drug Abuse
Advisory Council

HSR/gl

cc: Dr. Richard N. Katon

✓ bcc: Dave Beecher

CHAMBERS OF
CIRCUIT JUDGE
13TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF FLORIDA
COURTHOUSE ANNEX
TAMPA, FLORIDA 33602

HERBOTH S. RYDER

November 8, 1973

Mr. Art Barker, President
The Seed, Inc.
6900 West State Road 84
Ft. Lauderdale, Florida 33314

Dear Mr. Barker:

Thank you again for calling me. I just want to assure you I certainly appreciate your schedule and I am sure it is as crowded as most very busy people such as you are. Meeting you on the 12th rather than the 13th is certainly acceptable to me and I want to just take this opportunity to give you more detailed instructions on how to get here.

If you are flying in, drive to the Interstate and take the Interstate East until the Tampa Street exit, turn right and go South on Tampa Street until you reach Zack Street. There, turn left or East onto Zack, which is one-way, until you reach Jefferson Street. At Jefferson, turn right or South and Jefferson will take you between the Courthouse and the Courthouse Annex. The Courthouse Annex will be on the left and is the newer of the two buildings. Turn into the North parking lot and I will have the Northeast entrance open for you (there are two entrances on the North, as you face the building). The entrance on the left is the one to use because my Chambers are but five steps from that entrance.

Again, I want to thank you for your interest and enthusiasm and with kindest regards, I am,

Sincerely,



HERBOTH S. RYDER, Chairman
Florida State Drug Abuse
Advisory Council

HSR/g1

CHAMBERS OF
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TAMPA, FLORIDA 33602

HERBOTH S. RYDER

November 8, 1973

Mr. Art Barker, President
The Seed, Inc.
6900 West State Road 84
Ft. Lauderdale, Florida 33314

Dear Mr. Barker:

I enjoyed very much speaking with you telephonically yesterday and I am very happy that you will meet with us on November 13, 1973 here in my Chambers.

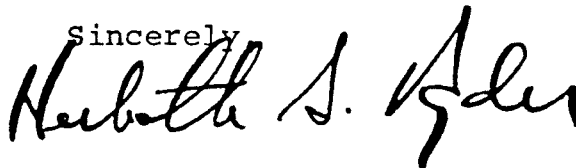
I want to say that I appreciate your enthusiasm in agreeing to initiate conferences regarding the problems The Seed has had with local Councils and as well as the responsibility the Council has undertaken as a result of Governor Askew's July 17, 1973 letter directing an examination of the licensing procedures and requirements set forth in the Standards Manual for Licensing of Drug Abuse Treatment and Education Programs and The Seed, Inc.

We want to be certain that the directions of the Governor are carried out to the letter and want to assure you of our intense desire that his mandate will be completely objective.

I am taking the liberty of forwarding herewith a copy of Governor Askew's letter for your review.

Looking forward to meeting you in person and with kindest regards, I am,

Sincerely,



HERBOTH S. RYDER, Chairman
Florida State Drug Abuse Advisory
Council

HSR/gl
Enclosure
bcc: Dave Beecher

CHAMBERS OF
CIRCUIT JUDGE
13TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF FLORIDA
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TAMPA, FLORIDA 33602

HERBOTH S. RYDER

November 13, 1973

Mr. Art Barker, President
The Seed, Inc.
6900 West State Road 84
Ft. Lauderdale, Florida 33314

Dear Art:

It was indeed a pleasure to meet with you, your wife and members of your staff yesterday. I deeply appreciate your coming to Tampa for the meeting.

The meeting was most productive and I do appreciate your pledge of full cooperation with the Council in carrying out the Governor's request for a survey of The Seed and the Standards Manual.

Dr. Katon, as well, shares my appreciation and delight about your attitude and spirit.

I want to take you up on your invitation that I tour your facilities. I have spoken with members of the sub-committee and they would also like to join us sometime convenient with your schedule. I think this would be appropriate and certainly would be in line with the thoughts of the Council sub-committee members.

I will ask them to let me know generally when their schedule will permit acceptance of your invitation and try to coordinate it with your busy schedule.

Again, Art, I think we are off to a good start and I do appreciate your willingness to cooperate in carrying out the Governor's wishes.

With kindest regards, I am,

Sincerely,

HERBOTH S. RYDER, Chairman
Florida State Drug Abuse
Advisory Council

HSR/gl

✓ bcc: David Beecher

CHAMBERS OF
CIRCUIT JUDGE
13TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF FLORIDA
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TAMPA, FLORIDA 33602

HERBOTH S. RYDER

November 13, 1973

Richard N. Katon, M.D.
Addiction Consultation
and Evaluation, P.C.
910 Seventh Street, N.W.
Suite 628-631
Washington, D.C. 20006

Dear Dr. Katon:

Just a note to underline some high points Mr. Barker touched upon pointing to alleged discriminatory acts against The Seed, Inc.

Foremost, I think, in Mr. Barker's mind, was his thoughts that the central intake units in Pinellas County and Dade County are not referring drug addicted persons to The Seed in the numbers The Seed believes it is entitled to.

Secondly, Barker feels that persons occupying executive positions in other drug programs also occupy positions of management or control in the regional Councils and are prejudiced towards The Seed. Here, he says, the membership of local regional Councils, particularly in Dade and Pinellas, are composed of persons who also have programs operating under the jurisdiction of the Councils and a conflict of interest exists.

Thirdly, Mr. Barker feels The Seed is not getting its full and equal share of funding contributed by those regional Councils making particular reference to the H.P.C. in Dade.

Next, Mr. Barker feels all drug programs operating in the State of Florida, not just The Seed, should be licensed state-wide rather than being required to obtain local licensing in each County or region.

Please include this list within your notes taken during the meeting with Mr. Barker on November 12, 1973.

Page 2

Richard N. Katon, M.D.

November 13, 1973

Sincerely,

HERBOTH S. RYDER, Chairman
Florida State Drug Abuse Advisory
Council

HSR/gl

cc: David Beecher

cc: Honorable O. J. Keller

cc: Members of the Sub-committee

CHAMBERS OF
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HERBOTH S. RYDER

November 15, 1973

Honorable O. J. Keller, Secretary
Department of Health and
Rehabilitative Services
1323 Winewood Boulevard
Tallahassee, Florida 32301

Dear Secretary Keller:

Dr. Katon has executed the Contract between the State and Addiction Consultation & Evaluation, P.C. for a review of The Seed and the State licensing requirements regarding the Drug Abuse Programs.

Dr. Katon has indicated he desired the addition of a clause to the effect that: "Upon acceptance of ACE's report as satisfactory and complete by the State Drug Abuse Advisory Council's Chairman, it will be paid in full \$24,084.00 by the State of Florida.

I have discussed this with Dave Beecher and we felt as does Dr. Katon that a separate letter from you including that statement would be acceptable to all parties.

The intent of that one sentence is throughout the Contract but not said in so many words.

Dr. Katon, as you already know, has initiated his survey on Monday, November 12, 1973 and there will be teams working in Dade, Broward and Leon counties next week. Dr. Katon himself is presently in Broward with some members of his staff.

I will keep you advised as to the progress of the review and with warmest personal regards to you, I am,

Sincerely,



HERBOTH S. RYDER, Chairman
Florida State Drug Abuse
Advisory Council

HSR/gl

cc: David Beecher

CHAMBERS OF
CIRCUIT JUDGE
133 JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF FLORIDA
COURTHOUSE ANNEX
TAMPA, FLORIDA 33602
November 27, 1973

HERBOTH S. RYDER

Mr. Frank D. Nelson, Director
Drug Abuse Program
1323 Winewood Boulevard
Tallahassee, Florida 32304

Dear Frank:

Thank you very much for a copy of the letter dated November 14, 1973 from Congressman Staggers directed to you which enclosed an opinion of the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, styled Merriken v. Cressman.

I have turned this over to Dr. Katon for his review and comment.

Kindly advise me of any knowledge that you have not only regarding your receipt of this letter but as to how the Interstate and Foreign Commerce Committee has recently become interested in The Seed and how that Committee understands that Florida has allegedly "has developed some of the most advanced standards for evaluating Drug Abuse Programs, ---".

Sincerely,



HERBOTH S. RYDER, Chairman
Florida State Drug Abuse
Advisory Council

HSR/gl

CHAMBERS OF
CIRCUIT JUDGE
133 JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF FLORIDA
COURTHOUSE ANNEX

TAMPA, FLORIDA 33602

November 27, 1973

HERBOTH S. RYDER

Mr. Frank D. Nelson, Director
Drug Abuse Program
1323 Winewood Boulevard
Tallahassee, Florida 32304

Dear Frank:

Please send to me at your first opportunity
subjects you propose for agenda at the next meeting
of the State Advisory Council.

Sincerely,



HERBOTH S. RYDER, Chairman
Florida State Drug Abuse
Advisory Council

HSR/gl

CHAMBERS OF
CIRCUIT JUDGE
132 JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF FLORIDA
COURTHOUSE ANNEX

TAMPA, FLORIDA 33602

November 27, 1973

HERBOTH S. RYDER

Mr. Frank D. Nelson, Director
Drug Abuse Program
1323 Winewood Boulevard
Tallahassee, Florida 32304

Dear Frank:

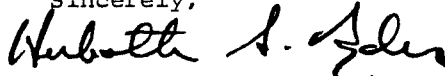
I have a copy of your letter of November 21, 1973 to a Mr. Kent Augustson, Acting Chief, Program Development Analysis and Management Section, further identity unknown. This letter is in regards to an evaluation of continuation of proposal #H 80 DA-00618-03.

Please let me know to what organization Mr. Augustson is affiliated.

Please advise me of the identity of proposal H AO DA-00618037.

Please forward to me a copy of Mr. Augustson's request of you and/or advise me how and why this inquiry originated.

Sincerely,



HERBOTH S. RYDER, Chairman
Florida State Drug Abuse
Advisory Council

HSR/gl

CHAMBERS OF
CIRCUIT JUDGE
13TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF FLORIDA
COURTHOUSE ANNEX

TAMPA, FLORIDA 33602

December 7, 1973

HERBOTH S. RYDER

Mr. Ralph A. Ambrose
P. O. Box 71
Plant City, Florida 33566

Dear Mr. Ambrose:

Governor Askew forwarded to me your letter of November 8, 1973 regarding The Seed.

The Florida State Drug Abuse Advisory Council was requested by Governor Askew to conduct a review of the State licensing procedures regarding Drug Abuse Programs to ascertain whether these licensing procedures fully reflect the intent of the Florida Statutes, as well as to ascertain if these licensing requirements and procedures are reasonable. The Governor also requested us to review The Seed to ascertain if any of these requirements are, in any way, prejudicial towards The Seed and to ascertain if The Seed meets the requirements of the Florida Standards for Licensing of Drug Abuse Programs.

The Governor's request came after Mr. Barker and other proponents of The Seed requested such a review. I appointed a Sub-committee to conduct this review and I have met many times with Mr. Barker and have received his energetic approval.

In order to obtain expertise and complete objectivity in our inquiry, we retained the services of consultants that have no connection with the State of Florida or the Florida State Drug Abuse Program or The Seed. Our consultants are conducting a very thorough review of The State Drug Abuse Office, the licensing procedures and The Seed. We have made visits to all Seed sites and I and the Sub-committee have all made personal visits to The Seed in St. Petersburg.

I will be most happy to share with you any of your views regarding The Seed as you suggested in your letter and encourage you to arrange a conference any time acceptable to your and my calendar.

Page 2

Mr. Ralph A. Ambrose

December 7, 1973

I want to assure you that all and any action we have taken and will take will be thoroughly objective.

Looking forward to seeing you, I am,

Sincerely,

HERBOTH S. RYDER, Chairman
Florida State Drug Abuse
Advisory Council

HSR/g1

cc: Mr. David Beecher
Governor's Office

CHAMBERS OF
CIRCUIT JUDGE
13TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF FLORIDA
COURTHOUSE ANNEX
TAMPA, FLORIDA 33602

HERBOTH S. RYDER

March 29, 1974

Mr. David Beecher
Office of the Governor
Capitol Building
Tallahassee, Florida 32304

Dear Dave:

Enclosed please find the final report of the Florida State Drug Abuse Advisory Council Subcommittee pursuant to the request of the Governor for a subcommittee to investigate the statutes, Standards Manual and the Seed, Inc. and affiliated organizations.

Also enclosed are copies of the Congressional Record, Vol. 119, No. 202 which includes material the report refers to.

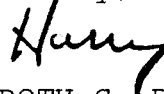
Also, I am enclosing a copy of a report from Mr. Don Samuels, Coordinator, Substance Education Program of the Dade County Public Schools. This letter, dated January 23, 1974, includes material from that organization which the Committee used in preparing its report.

Also enclosed is a Memo from H. Stephen Glenn to me dated March 21, 1974 regarding the Katon report which Mr. Glenn wants filed with all those other documents which show his opinion regarding the Katon report.

Bonnie had indicated my appointment with the Governor is at 11:00 a.m. and since I will be arriving as late as I am, I hope that a summary of the Committee's report can be provided him prior to our conference.

If you have any questions, please call me at your leisure.

Sincerely,



HERBOTH S. RYDER, Chairman
Florida State Drug Abuse
Advisory Council

HSR/gl
Enclosures

CHAMBERS OF
CIRCUIT JUDGE
13TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF FLORIDA
COURTHOUSE ANNEX
TAMPA, FLORIDA 33602

HERBOTH S. RYDER

April 9, 1974

His Excellency Reubin O'D. Askew
Governor, State of Florida
Capitol Building
Tallahassee, Florida 32304

Dear Governor Askew:

I am enclosing a report of the Sub-committee of the Florida State Drug Abuse Advisory Council inquiry requested by you in your July 17, 1973 letter.

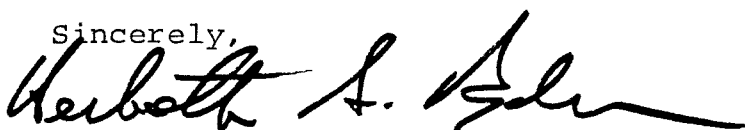
The enclosure also includes the report of our consultant, Addiction Consultation & Evaluation, P.C. of Washington, D.C. and other matters enclosed by the report.

If there are any questions arising from any of the documents enclosed, I would be happy to respond immediately.

On behalf of all the members of the Sub-committee, we want to thank you for this opportunity to serve you and the people of the State of Florida.

With kindest regards, I am,

Sincerely,



HERBOTH S. RYDER, Chairman
Florida State Drug Abuse
Advisory Council

HSR/gl

MEMBERS OF
CIRCUIT JUDGE
13TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF FLORIDA
COURTHOUSE ANNEX
TAMPA, FLORIDA 33602

HERBOTH S. RYDER

April 9, 1974

His Excellency Reubin O'D. Askew
Governor, State of Florida
Capitol Building
Tallahassee, Florida 32304

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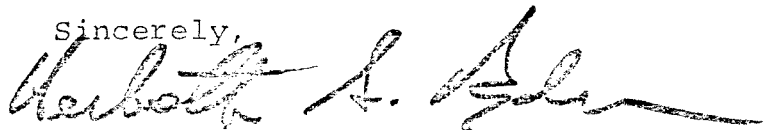
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If there are any questions arising from any of the documents enclosed, I would be happy to respond immediately.

On behalf of all the members of the Sub-committee, we want to thank you for this opportunity to serve you and the people of the State of Florida.

With kindest regards, I am,

Sincerely,



HERBOTH S. RYDER, Chairman
Florida State Drug Abuse
Advisory Council

HSR/gl

CLERK OF THE
CIRCUIT JUDGE
15 JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF FLORIDA
COURT HOUSE ANNEX
TAMPA, FLORIDA 33602

HERBOTH S. RYDER

April 9, 1974

His Excellency Reubin O'D. Askew
Governor, State of Florida
Capitol Building
Tallahassee, Florida 32304

Dear Governor Askew:

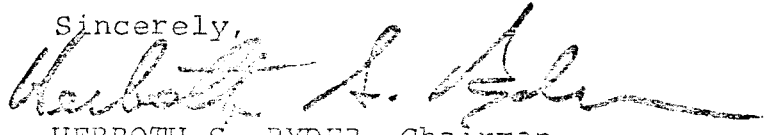
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The enclosure also includes the report of our consultant, Addiction Consultation & Evaluation, P.C. of Washington, D.C. and other matters enclosed by the report.

If there are any questions arising from any of the documents enclosed, I would be happy to respond immediately.

On behalf of all the members of the Sub-committee, we want to thank you for this opportunity to serve you and the people of the State of Florida.

With kindest regards, I am,

Sincerely,

HERBOTH S. RYDER, Chairman
Florida State Drug Abuse
Advisory Council

HSR/gl

CHAMBERS OF
CIRCUIT JUDGE
13TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF FLORIDA
COURTHOUSE ANNEX
TAMPA, FLORIDA 33602

HERBOTH S. RYDER

October 24, 1975

Mrs. Bonnie Armstrong
Office of the Governor
Capitol Building
Tallahassee, Florida 32302

Dear Bonnie:

I thought you would be interested in
reading this St. Petersburg clipping.

Sincerely,



HERBOTH S. RYDER

HSR/gl
Enclosure

*Thank you
again & again!
H.*

The Seed blossomed, withered, died

By MARGARET LEONARD
St. Petersburg Times Staff Writer

When the Seed closed up its Pinellas County operations and departed last week, it left behind hundreds of families who at one time had handed over their money, their energy and their hopes to Art Barker's program for "saving kids' lives."

Long before the program's end it had lost most of the Seed families who kept it going, and new ones weren't coming in anymore at the old rate of three or four a day. Some of the families just drifted away, satisfied that their children had been cured of drug use and bad attitudes or disappointed that the cure didn't last or never took.

OFFICIALS of the Seed have refused to comment at all on the Pinellas County closing, continuing the silence that marked its years here. But there are families that have known the Seed well.

The Warren Rose family, for example, felt "betrayed" by Seed founder and director Barker.

Rose, an attorney who put his three sons in the Pinellas and Broward Seeds, estimates that he spent \$4,000 to

\$5,000 on the program, not counting donations of free legal services and supplies and hours spent making speeches to raise money for the program. He is counting 48 foster children he fed and transported for a year and a half.

HIS WIFE Jean became an intake mother. She interviewed prospective Seedlings and their families, prepared food for the Seedlings, kept house for a large foster family and chauffeured her own and other people's children. Seedlings have to be driven everywhere they go because they are never permitted to be alone.

Timmie Rose became a staff member in March 1974 after he graduated from the program. He worked about 84 hours a week, he recalls, and took home \$65 every two weeks. He thought it was worth it.

The Roses believe the Seed "straightened out" their sons. They think their family has an "openness" they didn't have before the Seed.

But for the past year, the Roses have "felt very strongly that the Seed needs to be closed and Art Barker in no way have control over kids."

"SHEER GREED and a house built on falsehoods

killed the Seed," Rose said. "At one point it was worthwhile and it ceased to be worthwhile."

Like many other parents who were once devoted workers for the Seed, the Roses distinguish between Barker and the program.

"The program itself works and could work all over the country," Mrs. Rose said. "Art and Shelley (Barker's wife) and a couple of staff members were its real downfall. Art's money-happy and he's power-happy."

The Roses spoke scornfully of the rapidly increasing price of admission to the Seed, from \$100 in 1972 in Fort Lauderdale to \$1,000 or more this year. They say everything was donated and the only expenses were utilities and salaries.

IN EARLY 1974, Mrs. Rose said, the Seed began to demand "money on the line" before a teenager was admitted. She said those who couldn't pay were turned away.

But the Roses worry most about the way the Seed staff from Barker through the "senior staff," treated the Seedlings and their parents.

See SEED, 2-B

Seed from 1-B

They recalled a dozen or more cases of children who couldn't take the pressure that is part of the treatment. The Roses said a foster parent once told the staff, "This boy is different" and the staff insisted, "They're all just druggies." Mrs. Rose said the boy tried to hang himself.

SHE SAID a girl who had a hysterectomy wanted to talk about it but the staff took it lightly and the girl had a mental breakdown.

The Roses also believe the Seed tried to keep children dependent on the program too long.

"They had Timmie believing he would be a staff member all his life," Rose said. "What happens when the Seed is out of Pinellas county and they're still running back to find out if they should inhale or exhale. Rehabilitation is not a life time deal. You're not back in society until you're back in society behaving like a normal teenager, calling your girlfriend."

"YOU HAVE TO sever a knot with the Seed. I'm worried about the ones who can't. . . A lot have come out so bitter and their parents are not able to help them."

The Roses have decided that untrained Seed staffers have too much power over the lives and emotions of Seedlings, including graduates who have not broken with the program.

Seed staffers, no older than the clients they treat, decide when the Seedlings are telling the truth and when they're not, whether they have drug attitudes or straight attitudes, whether they're "ready" to see their parents, go home, go to church, go to school or get a job.

TIMMIE, who had such power on a smaller scale, as a junior member of the staff, said the power was inevitably abused.

He said his friend Archie McCrimmon, who stayed in the Seed 18 months, was used as an "errand boy" by the Seed staff. Archie knew how to fix cars and make repairs and the staff used to call him off paid jobs to come to the Seed to fix something, Archie said. He was told he would go to jail if he didn't make it in the Seed and he believed it, until one day, in defiance of the Seed staff, he went to see his parole officer. She told him he could leave the Seed and he did.

ARCHIE and Timmie remember Seedlings who were forced to stand up in front of the whole group of Seedlings and listen to hours of abuse. The practice of "coming down on" Seedlings was part of the treatment but Archie and Timmie said it sometimes was done unfairly, on the whim of a staff member.

"The whole trick is to make you feel like the lowest scum of the earth," Archie said. "(In one case) I knew it was wrong. I wanted to stand up there and tell them they were all full of it but I didn't know my court order was phony."

(The court orders, which Rose said were often "phony" or not enforceable, were used to threaten Seedlings with jail if they did not cooperate with the Seed treatment.)

TIMMIE told of a 14-year-old girl who was forced to stand up in front of the group while other boys and girls called her "a slut and a whore."

"It made me sick," he said.

He did not like the way the young staffers were changed by the power they had. The could make other teenagers cry and beg to be left alone, feel proud and grateful or change their minds about things they had believed before.

"You had power over the group," he said about himself and other staff members. "You knew everybody looked up to you and if you said something, they had to do it. If I stayed, I would have become a snobbish little brat. I had an idea I could do what I wanted and I didn't have to listen to

anyone except people above me (in the seed hierarchy)."

"THERE WERE times you would tell somebody to do something and they wouldn't. Right then you'd feel the power you had. You'd say, 'You better do it right now, or else'."

Timmie said the staff showed very little respect for the parents and Mr. and Mrs. Rose were among those who agreed.

Mr. and Mrs. Rose give the Seed credit for helping their sons give up drugs and get on their feet as competent, independent young men. They believe that Timmie could have done it by himself but the other boys were in too much trouble to pull themselves out of it.

However, they think the program becomes dangerous when families stay with it too long. The Roses and Archie, who also says the Seed helped him, think the program has changed.

THERE ARE others who came to believe the Seed was a mistake from the start, and told their children they were sorry they got them involved.

One 16-year-old girl said she stayed in the woods near her home a week, unwilling to trust her mother again after she was forced into the Seed. Her mother says now, "It was a mistake." Her daughter is home, going to school, holding a job and living what appears to be a normal life.

She said her months in the Seed were so miserable that she tried to cut her wrists in the Seed bathroom.

"Being dead was about the best thing I could think of," she said. "I thought about how peaceful I'll be. There won't be no more Seed. I can't stand this anymore."

SHE SAID she hid a razor blade in her pants and took it out in the bathroom.

"I was trying to break the plastic part off and cutting my fingers and an oldcomer was standing outside the stall asking, 'What are you doing?' I cut half my wrist, the first

layer of my skin. It was not successful. I hadn't done it good enough.

"I told my oldcomer I cut my wrist on the zipper of my pants. . . The staff got it out of me finally. I was going to talk to my parents that night and the staff said, 'Don't tell you parents — you know you just did it for attention and you mom's gone through enough — you don't need to hurt her anymore.'"

SHE AND her best friend, also 16, say the purpose of the Seed is to take guilt off the parents for mistakes with their children.

Her friend Karen (not her real name) refused to stay in the program. When she and her mother left the Seed for the last time, she said her mother told her:

"I don't even want to talk to you. One thing they told me was I did all I could and none of it was my fault."

KAREN said the Seed forces children to get along with their parents. If anything goes wrong between the parents and their children, she said, the parents can just call the Seed and the Seed will take care of it by starting the children over. Starting over means going back to the first, hardest part of the program, when the Seedlings stay in foster homes.

Karen and her best friend, who had both used marijuana when they went into the Seed, say the program helped them in certain ways. They say they learned to understand themselves better.

Karen says she finds it easier now to say no to people who want her to do things she thinks won't be good for her.

BUT THEY both say they are still "confused." They say they find it harder to trust people, particularly boys, since it was drilled into them in the Seed that they have no real friends and "guys only want to use you."

See SEED, 13-B

Seed

from 2-B

Karen and her friend believe they were hurt by the Seed and will be a long time recovering.

Other Pinellas families feel nothing but gratitude for the program and its director. They will not miss it because they don't need it anymore but they do regret that the Seed will not be available for other Pinellas teenagers in trouble with drugs.

THE WALKER family (not their real name) left the county soon after their daughter graduated from the Seed. Far from being adrift without the Seed, Carolyn got involved in extra-curricular activities in her new school, made a lot of friends who have "always been straight" and established a high B average.

Before the Seed, she had spent most of her spare time on the beach, smoked marijuana frequently and dated a man she and her mother now call "the creepiest excuse for a human being."

"He was a lot like Charles Manson," Carolyn said. "That's what I was headed to."

"I WAS SO depressed all the time and all I ever took was depressants," she said.

She doesn't use drugs anymore and she doesn't even know if other high school students use drugs.

"Drugs are no temptation at all," she said. "What I have now is so much better. It was such a waste of time . . . I have no idea (if drug use is widespread in the schools) because I'm not exposed to it."

"The Seed hit me in the right spot. I'm glad they got me in the Seed when they did. They saved me, as far as I'm concerned."

SHE SAID THE Seed made her self-confident and gave her the courage to stand up for what she believes in. The first test came when she left the Seed and went back to her old school. Other students taunted the Seedlings in the halls and on the school bus.

"I could not understand why they would want to hurt my feelings," she said. "They think you're feeling so superior because you won't talk to them. When you first go back you do not talk to anybody but after awhile, (when) you're ready to take care of yourself, you can."

Her six and a half months in the Seed were not miserable.

AT THE END of the first night, "they sang and said the Lord's Prayer and I felt so good."

"I saw all those happy, good-looking people and I decided to get like them quick."

It was quick, for her. In 17 days she was allowed to go home. The group never "came down" on her. She was determined to avoid that and made sure to "get straight" to prevent it. "I can recall quite a few that just could not make it," she said, wondering why they did not want to "get straight."

EVERY SEED family knows cases of former Seedlings who are back on drugs, in treatment in other programs, hospitalized, jailed or run away. Some former intake mothers estimate the success rate, by their standards, was 25 to 40 per cent.

But many Seed graduates, like Carolyn, seem to be making it very well on their own. Out of the "super-seedling stage," no longer dependent on the program, they are pursuing their ambitions without apparent difficulties. Even those who now hate the Seed often say they "learned more about themselves" in the program. Some admit the program brought them closer to their families.