

Collins wins freedom and law suit but loses his parents

BLACKSBURG, Va. (AP) — Fred Collins III won his freedom and his lawsuit, but in the process he lost his home.

Last month, Collins, a Virginia Tech sophomore, was awarded \$220,000 in damages from Straight Inc., a drug rehabilitation program that allegedly held him against his will for more than 130 days.

But his parents, who have

become believers in Straight, disowned him, he said in a recent interview. His younger brother won't speak to him. And until Collins receives the money won in court, he plans to live off loans and possible grants, he said.

Collins, 20, grew up on the outskirts of Alexandria, where his parents lived in a fashionable suburban home. By his account, he and his

parents enjoyed a normal relationship.

"I thought we were the typical middle class family. Two kids, a dog, a beach house," he said.

Like many teen-agers, Collins and his younger brother, George, didn't always agree with their parents. The two brothers smoked marijuana with their friends on weekends. Collins' parents were

concerned about the problem George was having with drugs. In January 1982, while Collins was a freshman at Tech, his parents enrolled George in a nationally known drug rehabilitation program called Straight Inc., located in St. Petersburg, Fla.

Six months later, Collins traveled to the Straight facility at his parents' request, knowing he would

be interrogated and "checked out." He had quit smoking marijuana a year before, but he wanted to see his brother, he said.

The visit began what he now calls a nightmare. In the recent trial in U.S. District Court in Alexandria, Collins testified that he was held by Straight against his will and was physically and mentally abused.

The jury agreed Collins had been held against his

will and awarded him \$220,000, \$40,000 to compensate Collins and \$180,000 to punish Straight. The jurors did not find that he was mentally and physically abused.

William Oliver, Straight's executive director, said Collins' allegations "were grossly exaggerated." Straight will appeal the jury verdict, he said.

"The jury vindicated me," said Collins, who expects that half of his \$220,000 will go to pay his lawyers. The jurors "let me know they believed what I said. ...It's going to hurt (Straight). They're going to think twice about going out and kidnapping an adult."

A half dozen other young people testified at Collins' trial or have filed suit against the organization. But other participants testified that Straight broke them of their drug dependency and turned their lives around.

Collins said there was no therapy at Straight. "It was really brainwashing. The first thing they try to do is degrade you and take away all sense of personal worth. They take away all of your possessions. They put down all of your friends. They put me down. They would make fun of the way I looked," he said.

Collins said he had to exaggerate his use of drugs to satisfy the group, which constantly applied pressure and would shout down those who refused to make public confessions.

"They didn't care if it was the truth or not. We had to keep on lying until they were satisfied with our stories so we could progress and move on to a higher phase," Collins said.

Collins was later transferred when Straight opened a program in Springfield near his northern Virginia home. Once he reached Virginia, he said he devised an escape plan. It involved escaping from his own home where he had been placed by the group.

His parents, who had become active in Straight, had alarms on the doors and the windows bolted, he said. Collins learned the code to the door alarm and escaped by shutting it off. He gathered his books and calculator, called a friend and smashed a table through a window.

Diplomats are told to get out by sundown

WASHINGTON (AP) — In a swiftly moving diplomatic drama marked by charges of assassination plots and spying, 21 Nicaraguan diplomats are obeying U.S. orders to close all six of their country's consulates and leave the country.

The State Department on Tuesday ordered the consulates shuttered and the diplomats and their families expelled in an unexpectedly severe and swift retaliation for the expulsion of three U.S. diplomats by Nicaragua on Monday.

The Nicaraguan government's precipitate action in expelling U.S. officials, giving them an unreasonably short

deadline for leaving the country, and then the public show staged (in Managua) on June 6, called in our opinion for a strong response," said Rush Taylor, a spokesman at the State Department.

"An important additional consideration was the Nicaraguan government's use of its consulates for intelligence operations," Taylor said.

Another official, speaking privately, said the consulates were "being used very actively" for intelligence gathering. He gave no details.

Word of the U.S. action was passed to Nicaraguan Ambassador Antonio

Jarquín during a chilly 15-minute interview with James H. Michel, newly appointed acting assistant secretary of state for inter-American affairs.

At the Nicaraguan Embassy, Minister-Counselor Manuel Cordero, the deputy chief of mission, told reporters that "so far the U.S. government hasn't challenged the proof" that three expelled American diplomats plotted for the CIA to try to kill foreign minister Miguel D'Escoto and to form terrorist squads.

However, the State Department says it "rejects the charges." And Linda Pfeifel, head of the political

section at the U.S. Embassy in Managua and one of the three expelled Americans, called them absurd.

The officials heading the Nicaraguan consulates in New York, New Orleans, Miami, Houston, Los Angeles and San Francisco were given until 4 p.m. local time today to close their doors and leave the country.

The remaining officials and all dependents were told to be out by Friday.

Cordero said 50 to 60 Nicaraguans in all would have to leave. The action would leave open only Nicaragua's embassy here, its mission at the United Nations in New York City and honorary consuls in

Santa Barbara, Calif. and in Puerto Rico.

Managua and Washington were already locked in a long-running diplomatic word battle that includes U.S. charges that Nicaragua's leftist Sandinista government funnels Soviet arms to guerrillas in El Salvador and the counter charge that the Reagan administration is striving "to overthrow our government."

In Congress on Tuesday, the House Foreign Affairs Committee voted 20-14 to ban U.S. undercover operations in Nicaragua and to instead openly help friendly governments in the area intercept arms bound for leftist rebels in El Salvador.

Some committee members, however, are predicting that a compromise will be reached when the issues comes before the full House that would allow U.S. covert aid to continue. No action is expected until later this month.

Group fights new banking move

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (AP) — Another attack on legislation that would allow Kentucky banks to own others across county lines is being prepared by independent banks.

The Independent Community Bankers Association of Kentucky already has sponsored a full-page advertisement in Farm Bureau News urging consumers to ask their state legislators to vote against any bill that would allow multibank holding companies.

"We feel it is a people issue, and we'd like the people to speak," said Charles Bennett, president of the association and Farmers Bank in Hardinsburg.

By mailing pamphlets outlining the legislation to the approximately 200 independent banks in the state, Bennett said his group hopes to broaden its public appeal over the next two weeks.

The independent bankers took a similar tack last year shortly after Bennett

organized them in August to spread the word that not all bankers favor multibank holding companies.

His organization, with 60 member bank, believes such holding firms would mean higher service charges and interest rates.

Advocates contend the change to multibank holding companies is necessary if Kentucky banks are to survive at a time when interstate banking is imminent and competitors include national brokerage firms.

A bill that would have permitted the formation of multibank holding companies failed by one vote in the 1982 General Assembly.

Approximately two weeks ago the Interim Committee on Banking and Insurance reviewed a bill similar to the one that was defeated. It would allow a bank holding company to acquire up to three banks a year outside its home county as long as it didn't control more than 20 percent of the state's bank deposits.

The full Legislature could act on the proposal this year if Gov. John Y. Brown Jr. calls a special session and includes the matter on his agenda. If he doesn't, the subject is expected to come up during next year's regular session of the General Assembly.

Mass murder suspect is returned to Ohio

WEST UNION, Ohio (AP) — Robert Dale Henderson, who police say confessed to 12 killings, was reported en route to Adams County where he faces three counts of aggravated murder.

Prison officials in Florida said Monday that Henderson, 37, was released to Ohio authorities and would be returned here. A dispatcher at the Adams County Jail said Henderson had not been brought in Monday night.

Henderson is charged with the Jan. 21, 1982, shooting deaths of Ivan and Marie Barnett, and Clifford Barnett, 11, his estranged wife's parents and brother, at their home in Cherry Fork.

In nearby Clermont County, authorities said they want to talk to Henderson about the rape-killing of Jerilyn Stanfield, a 30-year-old Cincinnati housewife abducted from a shopping center.

David Skipper, a Florida Department of Corrections spokesman, said Monday that Henderson had been removed from Florida. But he refused to reveal when Henderson was taken from the Florida State Prison or where he was taken, citing security reasons.

Adams County

Prosecutor Elmer Spencer could not be reached for comment nor could Adams County Common Pleas Judge Elliott Bucher.

Sheriff Louis Fulton was not in his office but had not gone to Florida to get Henderson, according to Curt Massie, the corrections officer on duty at the Adams County Jail.

"But we are making plans for when he finally is brought back," Massie said.

Florida police said Henderson confessed to killing 12 persons in a 10-day spree that began in southern Ohio in January 1982.

He was sentenced to die in the electric chair for his convictions on first-degree murder charges in deaths of three hitchhikers in Hernando County, Fla.

Henderson also received two consecutive life terms for his first-degree murder convictions in the shooting deaths of two persons in Putnam County, Fla.

Henderson is also charged with murder in South Carolina, Louisiana, and Mississippi.

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