What it costs parents to get youth off drugs

What's the going price for getting a youth off drugs?

It costs parents \$2500 for Straight Inc.'s program, no matter how long a youth remains in the program. The average length is 11 months. Parents pay an additional \$50 monthly food fee and dip into their wallets in twice-weekly meetings to help the financially strapped families of Straight clients. Parents also are soliciting money for a building expansion.

By comparison:

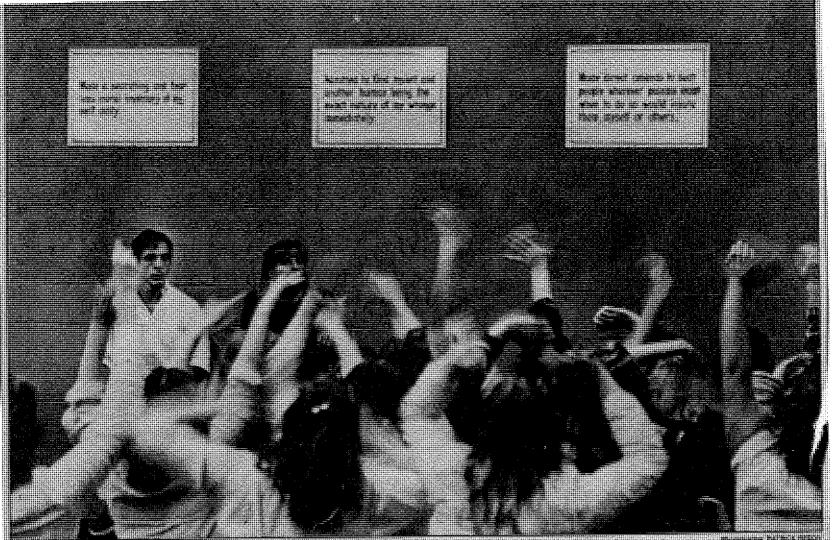
• It costs a maximum of \$7000 for six months in the Residential Youth Treat-

ment Program in Hope House at Drake, Hospital. However, that program is subsidized by the Hamilton County Community Mental Health Board with a sliding fee for persons who cannot afford the \$42-per-day maximum charge.

- Six weeks in the Care Unit Hospital of Cincinnati, located in the former St. George Hospital and the only area hospital specializing in drug treatment for adolescents, costs about \$8500. The cost is covered by most hospitalization insurance policies.
- Kids Helping Kids in Hebron, Ky.,

costs a maximum of \$1500, plus a monthly food fee. The average length of treatment is 11 months.

- Teen Challenge, supported by some area churches, is free, but limited to young men 18 and older. Clients are charged \$100 initially and remain in the program's treatment centers in Milford and Cincinnati for about six months.
- Other area hospitals treat chemically dependent youths at standard hospitalization costs in psychiatric or adolescent medical departments.



Stelf counsekure chooses the next person its speak during a Straight rap session.

Challenging Straight Lawsuits say drug program violates rights

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