

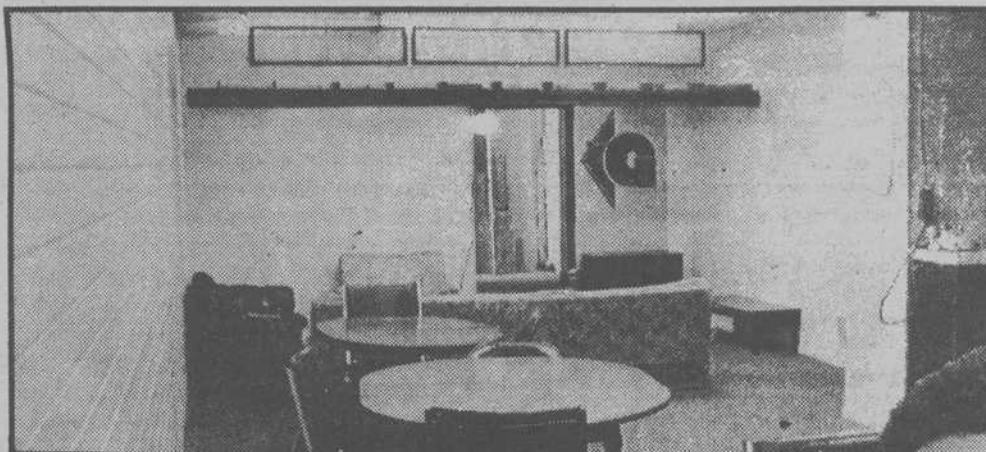
VEGAS HOUSE

...deserves everyone's support!

The LAS VEGAS SENTINEL visited the Vegas House earlier this week to see the program at the rehabilitation center in action. There, it saw troubled young men getting help for alcohol, drug and emotional problems.

Vegas House Adolescent Program, set up as a "home" for males 13 to 17 years old in an attractive 4,000 square foot office-complex building at 214 So. Maryland Pkwy., needs help. They house 21 young men at the center.

The program was originally set up over three years ago under the direction of Fitzsimmons House, one of the major drug and alcohol rehabilitation centers in Las Vegas. Last year, Vegas House left Fitzsimmons House to carry out an expanded program for adolescent males who have trouble coping with home life, school, and peer pressures, according to Vegas House



Program Director Logan Fields.

"What is basically needed, at this point, is some residential-type furniture, like beds — preferably bunk beds," said Rita Baba, administrative Assistant. "We also need some couches and chairs for the living room. We could also use some bureaus and chairs for the bedrooms."

Financially, the Vegas House needs \$250,000 in 1980 to operate the program. One third of that

money comes from the state Bureau of Drug and Alcohol Abuse and additional funds come from service contracts with Clark County Juvenile Court, Clark County Parole Service and Nevada State Welfare plus limited funds through the "clients."

With similar programs being cut from time to time throughout the state and funding going down, sometimes as much as 10 percent, it appears that some type of fund-raising project is inevitable.

"Our approach to helping kids is the use of reality therapy," said Logan Fields. He defined reality therapy as "presenting things as they are."

The program is divided into five levels. The first level is an orientation to the program.

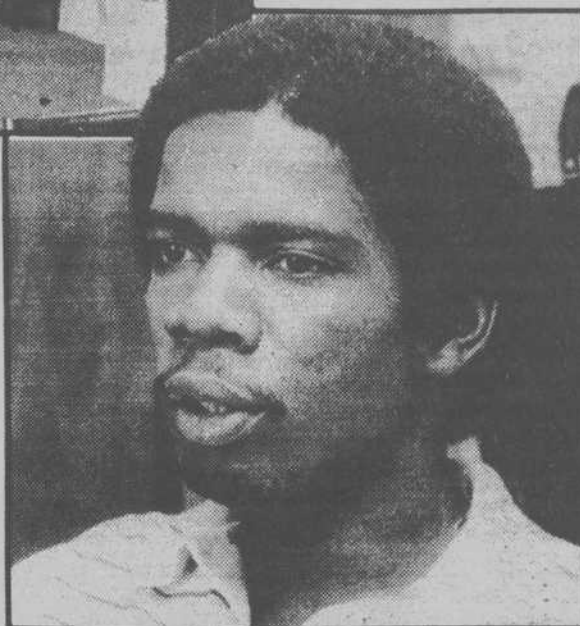
In the second phase, treatment plans are made.

The third phase involves the young man's attitude toward his commitment and his peers.

The fourth phase deals with preparation for the young men to return to their families. The participants in this phase are allowed eight-hour passes, gradually working up to 24 hour passes.

The fifth phase allows a youth to go back to living with his family. It is more commonly known as the "outpatient" phase. Here the Vegas House monitors the youth's progress by making regular visits to his home.

Mack Jones, Las Vegas area supervisor of the Bureau of Drug and Alcohol Abuse says "the Vegas House is doing a very, very good job. They are definitely making a contribution to the community in terms of working with young men with alcohol and drug problems."



LOGAN FIELDS...program director

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