

# UNREALIZED 'ASPIRATIONS'

Boca skin-care product guru and infomercial star **Harvey**

**Tauman's** big comeback has hit a snag: two lawsuits accusing him of trying to defraud investors.

Tauman, 66, became famous in the early '90s by turning the tiny Hydron

Technologies in Boca into a global skin-care player. Through showmanship that included his description of the plants used in the manufacturing of ointments, he once sold \$2.1 million of the stuff in one day on the QVC shopping channel.

But now that he's trying to do the same with his own line, Aspirations by Jennifer Greyson, Tauman is being accused in a Palm Beach County court of taking money from two groups of investors and not being able to return it.

One group is led by Hollywood dwarf actor **Gary Friedkin** (*Chicago Hope*, *The Practice*) who, with a brother, is in for \$68,000, according to Friedkin's lawyer, Boca rising legal star **Josh Friedman**. The other group includes seven Boca businessmen led by former Tauman friend **Larry Baratz**. Tauman says they own about \$200K of his stock.



**Tauman**

"He gave me a line of bull," said Friedkin, 54. "Harvey knew I invest in stocks, and he befriended me and pitched his stock at a 400 percent return. When I asked for my money back, he said the company didn't have it."

According to Friedkin, Tauman spent the cash on his recent divorce and personal items.

At one point, things got so heated that Tauman tried to get a restraining order against Friedkin.

Friedkin, however, is 3-foot-7 tall to Tauman's nearly 6 feet, and the judge didn't issue the order.

"He threatened to kill me," Tauman said Thursday.

The way Tauman explains it, both lawsuits are rooted in the same type of story. He dated the sisters of Friedkin and Baratz, at different times. But when he broke up with them, their brothers went after his business in retaliation.

Tauman, once a multimillionaire, was fired by the Hydron board in 1997. He filed for personal bankruptcy in 2005 and now lives in a 1,000-square-foot apartment near Military Trail. Greyson is mostly sold online, although, Tauman said, it isn't making much money.

"I'll be back at the top," he said. "I'm about to go public with Greyson, and those people suing will make tons of money despite themselves."