

# Events increase awareness of alcohol abuse

By BRANDY ANDERSON

Every year, WCC's Student Government Association (SGA) observes a week in October designated as Alcohol Awareness Week.

This year, WCC students observed this week from October 7-11.

The week-long activities included the "Red Ribbon Campaign," the wrecked car on display at the entrance of the college, "Writing on the Wall," "The \$6,000 Question," and the "Non-Alcoholic Happy Hour" on Friday.

On Monday, students wore red ribbons as expressions of abstinence from alcohol.

Beginning Tuesday, anonymous student writings, testimonials about the effects of alcohol abuse in people's lives, were placed on a bulletin board in the Atrium.

On Wednesday, 6 SGA volunteers wore black and painted their faces white to acknowledge that 6 people have died in Wayne County since January because of alcohol-related accidents.

SGA representatives distributed flyers on Thursday that compared the average \$6,000 cost of a DWI conviction, including fines, lawyer's fees and insurance rate hikes, with the cost of trips and a year of college.

On one of these flyers, the \$6,000 question was, "Which would you rather have...a year at UNC-CH, or two years in Central Prison?"

Another event had law enforcement officials demonstrating an intoxilizer, a device which measures the amount of alcohol in one's system.

Last, the SGA treated 224 students to a non-alcoholic happy hour during which students were served non-alcoholic cocktails and other drinks.



SGA representatives pose in front of the wrecked car borrowed from Wayne Auto Salvage: (l to r) Elboni Bennett, John Moses, Peggy Moses, and Terri Rumbley.

PHOTO: REGGIE HARRIS

## An Alcoholic's Thought

I'm tired of this lie  
That I live in  
It's full of pain  
And mixed with sin

I feel so weak  
From this disease  
For if I quit  
I'll be at ease

But it's so hard  
To fight it off  
I want to cease  
From this death  
sought

For if I don't  
I'll surely reach  
An early grave  
Not meant for me

(Help me, please!)

By a WCC student

## AIDS Seminar provides chance for answers

By CHRISTI DAWSON

The 17th annual AIDS Seminar again attracted an overflow crowd in the Lecture Hall on Monday, September 23, 1996, from 7-9:00 p.m.

Dr. Jim Atkins, local oncologist and AIDS expert, informed the audience about the growing statistics of the AIDS virus and future prospects for controlling the disease.

A second portion of the seminar featured a panel which included Dr. Edmond Hogan, interim Division Head of the Human Services/Social Sciences Department and organizer of the seminar; Diane, who is HIV positive; John David, her son, who is HIV negative; and Jerri, who has full blown AIDS.

John David spoke about how AIDS has affected his life through his and his mother's dealing with the condition.

Diane talked about the emotional and physical changes she encountered after she found out she had contracted the virus from her husband, who died in 1995.

Jerri, currently living with AIDS, talked about the boldness required to stand up and inform others of the virus.

She said because of the great support she received from her family and friends, she has been able to cope with her illness and live her life to the fullest.

At the end of the seminar audience members submitted questions on 3x5 cards about AIDS and its effect on the community and the symptoms and means to be tested.

### 1995 AIDS Stats

AIDS cases newly diagnosed in Wayne County - 10

AIDS deaths in Wayne County - 18

from the WeCan Newsletter

Have a Safe Thanksgiving!  
Don't Drink and Drive