

'Fight Back Against Drugs' Week slated

By TONYA V. SMITH
Chronicle Staff Writer

Coke, rock, white cloud, smack, herb, angel dust and the new kid on the block, ice, are the foes. Twelve year olds, newborns and teens are the victims. Community residents, pastors and police are the soldiers in the war on drugs that has evolved from mere metaphorical status to battles in cities' streets.

Earlier this week, Winston-Salem's Citizens Drug Task Force announced the city's participation in a national effort to encourage community residents to demonstrate their commitment to alleviating drug abuse and related crimes.

"Drug abuse continues to devastate the lives of individuals and families and reduces neighborhoods to war zones and causes the expenditure of exorbitant amounts of public funds and energy," read the city Board of Aldermen's resolution declaring Dec. 3-9 "National Cities Fight Back Against Drugs Week."

Terry Goddard, president of the National League of Cities (NLC) and mayor of Phoenix, Ariz., is the author of this new game plan. Said Mayor Goddard, "The nation's cities are the front line in the war against drugs, and we are fighting an enemy that threatens the people, the property and the entire social fabric of our communities. We cannot overestimate what is at stake in this war, and we cannot afford to lose it."

"Cities Fight Back Against Drugs Week" evolved as part of the NLC's response to the national drug control policy announced by President George Bush in August. President Bush approved the drug strategy prepared by national drug policy director William J. Bennett. The \$7.5 billion program calls for a \$200 million increase in funding for state and local law enforcement agencies and up to \$295 million in new military and economic aid to Peru, Bolivia and Colombia to combat cocaine traffickers at the source.

The local week-long celebration will include several activities aimed at educating and promoting dialogue among people in the hope that "we will attract new citizen soldiers to join in the fight of the war on drugs," said task force member Richard E. Groves, pastor of Wake Forest Baptist Church, during the group's first formal press conference Monday in city hall.

A proposed slate of activities includes:

"Drug Free Sunday," Dec. 3 - churches are asked to incorporate a drug-free theme in their services, and Step One will conduct outreach

programs in specific neighborhoods to identify drug users and offer assistance.

Monday, Dec. 4 - the city-county schools and Winston-Salem State University will sponsor various activities. The city recreation department will sponsor an essay contest on drug abuse for young people. Step One will sponsor after school programs at Kimberly Park Community Center, 3:30 p.m., and Cleveland Avenue Community Center, 4 p.m.

Tuesday, Dec. 5 - West Sedgefield community meeting with the drug task force, 6:30 p.m.; mini-drug forum sponsored by the Winston-Salem Youth Advisory Council, 7 p.m.; the Winston-Salem Housing Authority and Tenants Association will sponsor Families Unite Against Drugs Family Fun Night in the community centers of Piedmont Circle, 5 p.m.; Cleveland Avenue Homes, 5:30 p.m.; and the Kimberly Park Community Center, 6 p.m.

Wednesday, Dec. 6, Substance Abuse Signs/Symptoms at Baptist Hospital, 7:30 a.m. Senior Citizens discussion on drugs, Sunrise Towers, 2:30 p.m. Forsyth Mental Health Reach Out to the Business Community Employee Assistance programs. A self-esteem program at East Forsyth High School at 7:45 p.m.

Thursday, Dec. 7, Public Housing Community/Citizens Drug Task Force, 7 p.m.. Open forum on drugs at the Happy Hill Gardens Community Center. The Citizens Drug Task Force will hear concerns from citizens regarding drug abuse and the impact on neighborhoods.

Friday, Dec. 8, motorists are asked to turn their headlights on this day to demonstrate their concern for the drug problem. After school programs at Kimberly Park and Cleveland Avenue community centers, both will be held at 3:30 p.m.

Saturday, Dec. 9, drug exhibit by the Winston-Salem Police Department at the Marketplace Mall from noon to 6 p.m. Sedgefield neighborhood march against drugs, 10 a.m. "Substance Abuse on the Body" program at Rosemont Baptist Church, 2 p.m.

The Citizens Drug Task Force is chaired by Sheila Reynolds. Its members are Sophia Brown, William Dobson Jr., Delores McGee, James Rollinson, Lee Faye Mack, Henry Jones Jr., Grace Johnston, Shirley Dunlap, Clarthria "Peggy" Wherry, Richard Groves, Jerry Jernigan (vice chair), Wendell Brown, Sidney Welch, Bob Adams, Martha Martinat and John Geis Jr.

Hundreds of students walk out of Horry County schools

CONWAY, S.C. (AP) -- More than 1,300 of the Horry County School District's nearly 8,000 black students weren't in school Wednesday, with some staying home to show support for a fired middle school teacher.

But unlike a similar protest Tuesday when more than 400 students left school early with their parents, there was no big walkout Wednesday.

"We only had 120 black students who were signed out by their parents Wednesday," school spokesman Edward Boyd said.

Most of the students stayed home for the day, he said.

Boyd noted that the Thanksgiving holiday may account for some of the absenteeism as some families took their children out of school to travel out of town for the long weekend.

Horry Board of Education members have criticized parents for keeping students out of the classroom. Most said it won't help fired Conway Middle School science teacher H.H. Singleton and will hurt the students, who could fall behind in their studies.

In another development last week, Horry County Black Coalition chairman Cleveland Fladger and a handful of other adult protesters arrived at school district headquarters to present petitions to Superintendent John Dawsey.

Fladger said one of the petitions, signed by 2,000 black parents, asks

that protesters be given a chance to hold a meeting with school board members to discuss Singleton's firing. Another petition asks that Dawsey's contract not be renewed.

But Dawsey had already left his office, his secretary said. The protesters will try to deliver the petitions again Monday.

Singleton, who was fired from his teaching job Saturday by a 5-1 vote of the school board, isn't responsible for the students' absence from school, Fladger emphasized.

He said parents of the students met Monday night and agreed that removing their children was a good way to demonstrate their anger and frustration over the firing.

Trouble started Aug. 22 when about 30 Conway High School black football players began boycotting practice, claiming head coach Chuck Jordan discriminated against former quarterback Carlos Hunt, who is black.

Hunt was replaced this year with a white quarterback, Mickey Wilson Jr., who is a son of Conway's head basketball coach.

On Aug. 28, the boycotting players were kicked off the team because they missed four practices. The next day, Singleton -- who heads the Conway chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and helped organize the boycott -- was suspended from his teaching job by Dawsey.

Sherman Hauser celebrates 100th birthday

By Chronicle Staff

Few people live to see their 100th birthday and fewer still celebrate their lives with as much vigor as Sherman Hauser.

Last Friday, Mr. Hauser's family honored the occasion with a birthday cake and a display of cards and gifts.

Mr. Hauser's recipe for longevity is simple.

"I took care of myself," he said. "I have never spent but one night away from home in my whole life. And I have never had a fuss or been in a fight with anyone. I've never had a fight with a man anywhere. I was never carried to the jailhouse in my life."

Mr. Hauser married in 1908 at the age of 18 and was the father of 12 children, six boys and six girls. He said that both his mother and father were young children when slavery ended.

He was employed by Reynolds Tobacco Co. for 35 years but said he also spent many years working at a variety of jobs for other people.

A great conversationalist, Mr. Hauser enjoys sharing his past experiences with visitors. He can talk at length about life growing up around the Yadkin River and about the time his father took the family across the



Photo by Mike Cunningham

Happy 100th!

Sherman Hauser, who turned 100 years young last week, marked the occasion with a cake, gifts and cards from friends and family.

river in a carriage then had to rescue the children from the high waters.

Mr. Hauser still performs all of his own household chores, such as chopping wood, cleaning and canning fruits and vegetables.

His daughter, Eleanor Hauser, one of only two surviving siblings, said she recently took her father for his annual checkup. "The doctor could not find a thing wrong with him," she said.

She said she also took him for an eye examination which

determined that Mr. Hauser had 20/30 vision.

"I'm real proud of him being as active as he is," said Mrs. Hauser.

"I tell him he should be thankful. There are a lot of people not half his age who are walking around on canes."

Western Union offers No Sweat Money Transfer. Because asking for money is tough enough.

You've handled the hard part. So it's only right for Western Union to make everything else so easy.

Sending Money. No Sweat!

We make it convenient for moms and dads, aunts and uncles, grandmas and grandpas to get your money to you. Thanks to over 14,000 convenient locations across the country, they'll never have to go out of their way to get to Western Union. And neither will you.

Receiving It. No Sweat!

Plus, we make sure your money gets to you usually in fifteen minutes or less. So whether you're on the sending or receiving end, it's no sweat with Western Union Money Transfer.

For the Western Union location nearest you, call

1-800-325-6000.

WESTERN UNION | MONEY TRANSFER

The fastest way to send money.

