

WINNERS IN THE Virginia and Odell Williamson Oratory Contest receive plaques. Pictured are, from left, Virginia Williamson; Monica Richardson, winner

of the female competition; Michael White, winner of the male competition; and Odell Williamson.

North, South Students Win Williamson Scholarships

BY TERRY POPE

Role models and drugs were the topics of winning speeches that earned two Brunswick County seniors \$2,500 college scholarships Sunday in the 16th annual Virginia and Odell Williamson Oratory Contest.

Monica Richardson, of North Brunswick High, and Michael White, of South Brunswick High, gave the winning speeches at the county competition held at South Brunswick.

A female and a male from each of the three county high schools competed for the scholarships, which are awarded each year by Ocean Isle Beach developer Odell Williamson and his wife, Virginia. Previouslyselected school winners were each awarded \$100 in cash and the right to compete for the county scholarships.

Also competing Sunday were Colleen Glasgow, first runner-up, of South Brunswick; and Leigh Ann Frink, second runner-up, of West Brunswick girls division; and Christopher Maynard, first runnerup, West Brunswick; and Charles Thomas, second runner-up, of North Brunswick.

Richardson's speech, titled "Role Models," dealt with the three types of persons who serve as role models for young children-teachers, television stars and sports stars.

She pointed out how New York Mets baseball pitcher Dwight Gooden had let his young fans down earlier this year by becoming addicted to cocaine.

"Why couldn't he depend on God instead of cocaine?" she asked.

Many television stars who serve as a child's role model are also abusers of drugs, Richardson added.

"Parents, you must understand you have to be the role model," she said.

White's winning speech on "Drugs" dealt with the pressures that force young people to turn to drugs.

He said it is often a "combination of other pressures combined with peer pressures" that make teenagers turn to drugs.

"The power of that drug sneaks up on you and you don't even see it,' White said. "Whole families have been ruined

by drugs," White said. "But I know one person who is going to make it. I'm going to make it." In Glasgow's speech, titled "Mar-

riage Of Self-Confidence," she asked the audience "to have faith and trust in yourselves.

"You all look like worthy people to me," she added.

Self-confident people, she said, do not let their physical appearances worry them.

To end her speech, Glasgow asked the audience to raise their right hands and to take an oath of selfconfidence.

Thomas' speech, titled "The Japanese Educational System vs. The American Educational System," compared American schools with those in Japan.

Thomas also compared the roles that parents play in educating children in America and in Japan.

In Japan, Thomas said, after school activities are geared toward education.

Maynard's speech, titled "Teen Suicide," explored why teenagers take their own lives at the rate of one every 90 minutes.

Learning to detect the early signs of depression can help prevent teen suicides, he said.

Often, Maynard said, the signs are when students tend to stay in isolation and to become defensive. Depressed students also begin to fail grades at school, he said.

Frink's speech, titled "Setting and Achieving Goals," told of her wish to become a writer and of her need to achieve her own goals in life.

"You're never too young to know what you want out of life," she said. To achieve one's goals requires

both a positive attitude and determination, Frink said. "Our dreams can come true," she said, "but if we're waiting for a fairy godmother then we've got a long way

to go."

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Ride a pony or a train, play bingo or take a cake walk at the Bolivia Elementary School May Fair celebration Saturday, May 23, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The annual festival opens with the traditional winding of the May Pole by third grade students and the crowning of a May Queen from the

fifth grade. This year for the first time, her court will include representation from each grade.

Also on the May Fair program are activities by each grade, including a softball tournament between fourth and fifth graders, a parachute dance by second graders, a demonstration by the jump rope club and a "Putting On The Hits" lip-synch contest.

Games for youngsters will include a fishing booth, duck pond, ring toss, beanbag toss, darts and lollipop tree.

Because of the school's success in earlier fundraising projects this year, said a spokesman, this year's May Fair "is not being held as a fundraiser, but as a fun day for the







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