

# Researchers Seek Ways To Teach Skills To Avoid Drug Use

By Natalie E. Hampton and Barbara Antonucci  
Special To The Post

While national attention is focused on "just say no" anti-drug campaigns, two researchers at North Carolina State University are looking for ways to teach adolescents reasoning skills to help them avoid the temptation of drug use.

Dr. N.A. Sprinthall and Dr. E.R. Gerler, faculty members in NCSU's Department of Counselor Education, are embarking on the second year of a three-year study aimed at developing a drug counselling program that would involve parents working with teenagers.

The study has received funding

from the Broyhill Foundation.

While President Reagan has urged the nation's youth to say "no" to drug abuse, the researchers go a step further, Sprinthall said.

"We say teach children reasons not to do drugs," he said.

In the first year of their study involving 54 Wake County eighth graders, Sprinthall and Gerler learned that teenage girls and boys have different reasoning abilities when it comes to the issue of drug abuse.

Boys in the study reasoned at a less rational, more impulsive level than girls their own age when confronted with choices in drug abuse situations, according to the s

tudy findings.

Boys tended to avoid drug use if there was a high probability of their being caught, punished or losing privileges.

Girls, on the other hand, were deterred from drug use because of general societal rules or an understanding of the dangers of drug use. Girls were more able than boys to understand that drugs could be harmful to themselves or to society.

If these results stay the same when the study is repeated this fall, the researchers plan to develop pilot educational programs to raise the boys' level of reasoning and improve the girls' abilities to

understand causes and consequences of drug use.

Sprinthall said he had not expected to find such differences in boys' and girls' reasoning abilities on drugs because there are not significant differences in their abilities in other areas at this age.

The ultimate goal of the research is to develop drug prevention workshops in schools that would involve parent volunteers working with groups of teenagers other than their own children.

Last year, the researchers selected two groups of eighth graders to participate in dialogues on drug abuse. One group was led by a school guidance counselor and the other by

an NCSU graduate student.

Adult leaders in the study tried to initiate discussions with students on problem situations involving drug use.

"The students were given scenarios with dilemmas related to drug use, and they had to come up with possible courses of action," Gerler added.

Dilemmas discussed included dealing with pressure from a friend to use drugs or being at a party where drugs were available.

"Eighth grade is the peak time for young people to be subject to outside influences," Sprinthall said.



## Frederick Feely Is Elected Freshmen Class President

Frederick D.B. Feely, son of Mrs. Annie Louise Feely of 1939 Arjay James Ave., Charlotte, and Fred J. Feely, has been elected president of the freshman class at North Carolina Central University.

He leads a class of more than 1,600 students.

Feely, who graduated from Charlotte's Olympic High School, is also vice president of Chidley Hall, NCCU's men's residence; associate justice of the NCCU Student Court; a member of the Eagle Yearbook staff; and a reporter for the Campus Echo newspaper.

## 25 Students Need Host Families

Host families are being sought for 25 high school students from Sweden, Norway, Denmark, Finland, Holland, Belgium, Austria, Switzerland, Germany, Spain, France, Italy, Ecuador, Australia, and Japan for the school year 1987-88 in a program sponsored by the American Intercultural Student Exchange (AISE).

The students, age 15-17, will arrive in the U.S. in August 1987, attend a local high school, and return to their home countries in June 1988. The students, all fluent in English, have been screened by their school representatives in their home countries and have spending money and medical insurance.

Host families may deduct \$50 per month for income tax purposes.

AISE is also seeking American high school students age 15-17, who would like to spend a high school year in Sweden, Norway, Denmark, Germany, Switzerland, France, Spain, or Australia or participate in a five week summer host family stay throughout Western Europe.

Families interested in this program should contact the person named above or telephone toll free 1-800-SIBLING.

## Fantastic Sam's Raises Money For Easter Seal

During October and November Fantastic Sam's is conducting a special promotion to raise money for the Easter Seal Society of North Carolina.

Each Fantastic Sam's store is trying to raise \$600 by selling a coupon book valued at \$22 for only \$4. All proceeds from the sales will go directly to Easter Seals.

Coupons in the \$2 booklet include \$2 off an adult cut and style, \$1 off a child's cut and style, and \$5 off a perm or body wave.

Fantastic Sam's, a corporate sponsor of the National Easter Seal Society, has set a goal of raising \$600,000 for the charitable organization. Locally, the money raised will be used to provide direct services for physically handicapped children and adults. Service programs include medical equipment purchases and loans, speech, occupational, and physical therapy, respite care, and year-round camping at Camp Easter in Southern Pines.

## John Denning To Address AARP

John Denning, National President of the American Association of Retired Persons, will address the regular monthly meeting of local No. 197 Thursday, October 16, at 10 a.m., at the Little Church on the Lane, 528 Moravian Lane.

The public is invited to hear him discuss the four major national objectives of AARP: health care, employment opportunities for older workers, special needs of older women, and the aspirations of minority groups. These concerns touch all citizens.

Mr. Denning is a resident of Clinton, NC, and is the first Carolinian to hold this prestigious national post. He has been making daily appearances before chapters all over the country since his election.

Don't miss this opportunity to hear him discuss his national goals and to demonstrate support by your presence.

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Quaker Quick Oats 18 Oz.	<b>\$1.04</b>	Solo Party Cups 18 Oz. 20 Oz.	<b>89¢</b>
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