

PHOTO BY JIM PRICE

HOSA Sponsors Blood Drive

West Brunswick High School's chapter of Health Occupations Students of America (HOSA) and the American Red Cross sponsored a blood drive last Friday in the school library. Donors gave 75 pints of blood. Pictured are nurse Wanda Almeida and donor Chris Smith.

Know-How, Time And Money Keys To Weed-Free Lawns

BY C. BRUCE WILLIAMS
Extension Area
Turf Specialist

Weeds start growing at the first sign of spring and do not give up until the coldest winter day burns their foliage back. The good news is most weed problems in our lawns and gardens can be solved. The solution involves know-how, time and money. The know-how can preserve the environment and save you time and money.



WILLIAMS

Weeds in home lawns are usually the result of weak or thin turf due to the previous season's drought damage, winter kill, insect or disease damage, intense wear or improper cultural practices.

A healthy well-established lawn will have few weed problems. A weed-free home lawn depends upon prevention and control.

These tips will help homeowners prevent and control weeds in the lawn and garden:

- Use sanitary garden practices. Weeds are often introduced into your yard or garden on dirty mowers or tillers. Clean equipment after each use. Eliminate weeds from adjacent fence rows or waste areas.

- Plant the correct grass species for your environment. A poorly adapted turf grass is an invitation for weed invasion. Insure the soil environment (fertility) is optimum for the grass you are growing.

- Mowing height influences turf density. Mowing too low or too high will influence the ability of the grass to compete with weeds for water and nutrients. Mow at the rec-

ommended mowing height and frequency. Remember, never remove more than one-third of your turf at any one cutting. Scalping will encourage weed invasion.

- Disease, insect and nematode infestation are common causes of weed invasion. If pest problems are not corrected your grass will then and weeds will fill the bare areas. Correct the underlying pest problem, then the weed problem.

- Many lawns are also family play areas. Heavy traffic tends to compact soils and stress the established turf, allowing weeds to encroach. If you suspect soil compaction to be a problem, consider aerating your lawn.

- Learn to use a spudding tool. Many lawns have minor weed infestations that can be easily remedied with hand pulling or a spudding tool—a metal forked blade with a wooden handle. Early detection and removal can save you time and money.

- Learn to identify the weeds common to your lawn or garden. Many folks are needlessly trying to control weeds that are winter annual plants. Chickweed, henbit, shepherds purse and annual bluegrass will die with the warmer temperatures of the summer. The perennial

weeds like dandelion, wild garlic, ground ivy, yellow and purple nutsedge and red sorrel should be controlled before they flower and release additional seeds into your landscape. If you have weeds that you cannot identify, take them to your local extension agent and get them identified.

- Take the time to learn a little more about herbicides, the chemicals used to kill weeds. Postemergent herbicides kill weeds that are up and growing. Pre-emergent herbicides kill or prevent the weed seeds from germinating. Most pre-emergent herbicides are ineffective if sprayed on emerging weeds. Most postemergent herbicides will do nothing to prevent weed seeds from germinating. The spring is a good time to apply pre-emergent herbicides for crabgrass and goosegrass control in many of our warm season grasses. The spring is also a good time to control the perennial broad-leaf weeds.

Take time to assess your weed problem and consider all the options. For more information on specific means of weed control, call your local extension agent.

Send your gardening questions to The Plant Doctor, P.O. Box 109, Bolivia, N.C. 28422.



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West Brunswick Prom Week Events Promoting Drug-Free Celebration

BY TONIA TREST
For The Brunswick Beacon

The West Brunswick High School junior-senior prom will be held Saturday, April 20, with special events planned before and after the dance to encourage a drug-free celebration.

The Jones/Byrd Clubhouse at Sea Trail Plantation will be the setting of the prom, which begins at 8 p.m. and ends at midnight. The theme of "Midnight Melody" will be carried out with a color scheme of black, white and silver, said prom advisor Kelley Frink. She is working with a committee of 12 juniors and eight junior homeroom teachers in preparing for the prom, which is traditionally hosted by the junior class in honor of the senior class.

Music will be provided by a disc jockey and prom photographs will be available.

Several changes have been made from last year's prom, according to Mrs. Frink. No prom king and queen will be crowned. Also, freshmen will be allowed to attend with a senior or junior date. Dates that do not attend West Brunswick High School must have prior approval from the school to attend. Two security guards will be on the premises to enforce this policy and to keep the prom alcohol- and drug-free.

During the week before the prom the school's Students Against Drunk Driving chapter is sponsoring a week of activities to encourage students to have a chemical-free prom.

Activities this week include an essay writing assignment in all English classes. Also, SADD members wore their club T-shirts Tuesday while many other students wore the SADD colors of red, white and black. A "Death Day" was to remind students of the number of people killed each year in drug- and alcohol-related accidents. On Friday, red ribbons and handouts are to be placed on all cars in the parking lot. "Just Say No" ribbons are on sale throughout the week.

"The prom is a very exciting time for everyone and I hope the activities the SADD club sponsors will encourage everyone to have fun but be safe," said Jenean Norris, SADD reporter.

Following the prom an "After Prom 1991" party will be held at 2001, a nightclub in North Myrtle Beach, S.C., from 1 a.m. to 6 a.m.

Laura Stone, sponsor, said the party is supported by the school, area businesses and parents. She said all West Brunswick High School juniors and seniors are encouraged to attend. They do not have to attend the prom

in order to go to the after-prom party.

Admission is \$5 per person and tickets are on sale in the school cafeteria during lunch.

Students who attend must sign in between 1 a.m. and 2 a.m., said Ms. Stone, and must sign out when they leave. They will not be allowed to return after leaving and forfeit all chances of winning prizes after they leave.

"After Prom 1991" will include pogo stick races, a limbo and a dance contest sponsored by the club's disc jockey. Students can play at casinos set up using play money that can be used to buy prizes.

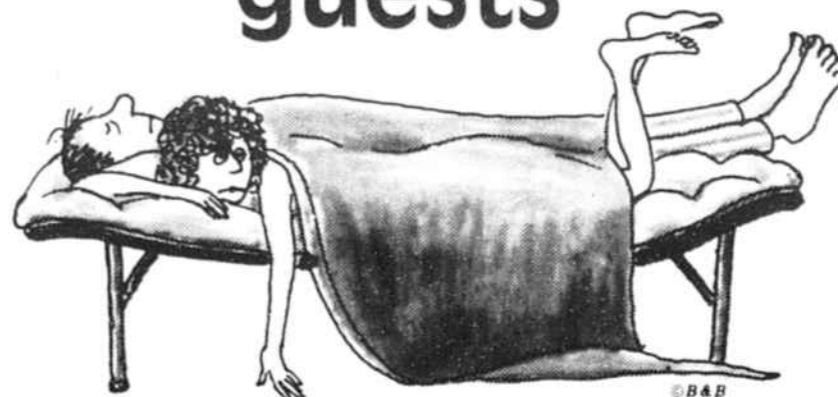
Other prizes will be given away throughout the party. At the close, an auction will be held featuring items from headsets to microwaves.

A grand prize of at least \$1,000 will be presented to one of the students present.

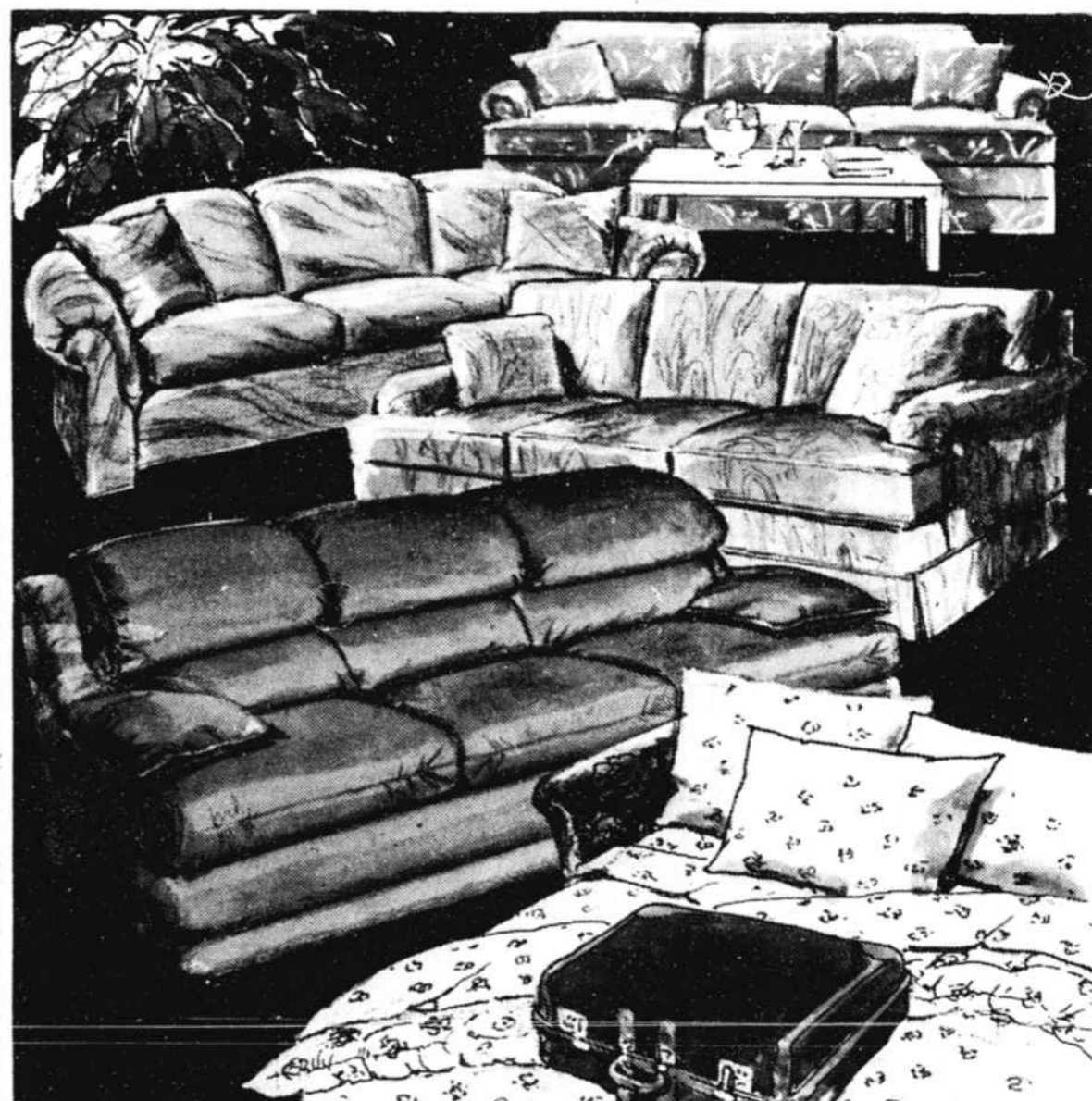
"I think the after-prom party was a big success," said Shannon Lancaster, winner of a \$1,000 grand prize last year. "Everyone seemed to have a good time. There were plenty of things to do and people won prizes all night."

"I must say the most exciting part of the night was the \$1,000 drawing. It was worth staying all night. I would be glad to go back."

If this is your idea of accommodating guests



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