

# Drugs not in my backyard?

CISKA VERSTER'S article of 19 June ("Muizenberg drug problems running high") refers.

I wish to take *The Post* to task over this headline. The article describes drugs being sold in Lakeside to a Fish Hoek user by a dealer who lives in Muizenberg, and False Bay College students (few of whom reside in Muizenberg) buying drugs from street children. ←

Clearly, this problem belongs to the whole Far South. Why then, by referring to the relentless fight by the Muizenberg Improvement District (MID) to identify and shut down the dealers, does this headline make the drug problem a Muizenberg one? It is this NIMBY (Not In My Back Yard) mind set that makes it possible for drug dealers to flourish – as long as everyone thinks the problem is a few kilometres away, it's easy to fool ourselves that there is no problem in "our" area and no united action is taken.

Follow the example of MID: find out what's happening, use the legal structures available to take action and, most importantly, make the information available to your neighbours so that they can protect their children. Hopefully, the media won't use your efforts to blacken

Tuesday 9 October 2007

GEI



Oil Reach Out's adolescent peer educators decided to address their peers about the issue of HIV and held awareness events at Ukhanyo Primary School and Simon's Town High School. Seen here are Thobela Fani, Sisanda Mqhibisi, Zanele Matwa, Neliswa Tsotsa, Nosimphiwe Bokwe, Thulisa Mayekiso, Khaya Dlulani, Sinehemba Lahlekile and Khanyiselo Silo, facilitator. Photo: Supplied

## Youth told the truth about HIV

THERE is only one reliable way to find out your HIV status and that is to take the HIV test.

A survey published in 2004 found that South Africans spent more time at funerals than they did having their hair cut, shopping or having braais. It also found that more than twice as many people had been to a funeral in the past month than had been to a wedding.

Children and adolescents under the age of 19 years make up more than half of the South African population of 44,8 million. These young people are at risk not only of being left parentless and without role models, but of becoming infected with

HIV themselves. Studies predict that without a radical and sustainable preventive strategy, 50% of youth will become infected with HIV by 2010.

Oil Reach Out's adolescent peer educators decided to address their peers about this issue. They invited all the young people in their community to a recent event where they could come together to address the issue of HIV in their midst.

Two such events were held in Masiphumelele at Ukhanyo Primary School, and at Simon's Town High School.

The Oil peer educators work hard to impact their peers, as they believe that teens of today are the future of Mzantsi.

THIEVES STRIPPING  
NEIGHBOURHOOD  
OF COPPER

### CISKA VERSTER

SCHOOLS in Ocean View are suffering from a plague of thefts of copper and brass that has left already cash-strapped institutions worried about the future.

The situation has become so bad that local Ward Councillor Nicki Holderness and principals of the three worst-hit schools recently requested a meeting with Superintendent Natasha Thomas of the Ocean View Police to discuss a way to deal with the problem.

"We were hit again this very morning (Friday), and this time about ten door handles were stolen off our classroom doors. The fact that the school holidays are coming

**Firm favourite:** The "first team" from the MSC-Navy Youth Band, directed by Commander Mike Oldham, performed at the Knysna Festival during the school holidays. Their concerts, consisting of popular music, excerpts from the classics, and even boogie (the band's favourite!), was a hit with festival audiences. They immediately received invitations to return in January and also for the next Festival, one idea being to involve them in Knysna's own upliftment projects. Commander Oldham has now started teaching a new set of music to the main band plus the reserves. He is also testing of new applicants, mainly from Grade 4 classes in Ocean View and Masiphumelele.

