

REGIONAL RAZE ON'S HIT THE MARK

From Tim White

They came from the North, South, East and West. From local elementary schools, middle schools, high schools, and university. They were young teens and older adults. All focused on one goal – ***“Each One - Reach One”*** which is the theme of the 2006 RAZE ON's across the state of West Virginia.

On Saturday, January 28, over 50 young people and adults gathered at the Douglass Centre in Huntington, WV for the North Regional RAZE ON. Students attended workshops of Tobacco 411, taught by Whitney Hodges; Recruitment and Activism, taught by Russell Bailey; and Media and RAZE Web site, taught by Amanda Adkins.



After lunch the attendees participated in a commotion using the RAZE discs. This is also the time the photographer and reporter from the Herald-Dispatch showed up to cover the event, and this picture wound up on the front page of the Sunday paper's, local section which has a regional coverage of over 150,000 people.



Since 1999, teen tobacco use in WV has decreased by 38%. This is largely due to the grassroots efforts of the teens who make up RAZE throughout WV. Their goal this year is to double the number of crews from 200 to 400 and double the number of crew members from 3000 to 6000, thus the theme, ***“Each One - Reach One.”***

On Saturday, February 4, the training crew loaded up in the van and headed to Logan for the South Regional RAZE ON. In spite of rain and snow having been forecasted, over 50 teens and adults showed up at Southern West Virginia Community and Technical College to participate in this event.



At the Southern event, Russell and Amanda were accompanied by Shea Anderson, Ja'Leeza Canady,

Jaytese Westmoreland and Heather Boyles, a Journalism student at Marshall University who is working with RESA II RAZE crews with their media component of promoting and marketing their RAZE crew.



Tim White and Keith Dalton want to thank all the Adult Advisors and crew members who made the RESA II Regional RAZE ON a huge success. Tim and Keith want to especially recognize the crew members who helped with decorations, registration, food, as well as those who facilitated the various workshops. You guys are awesome.

