Marijuana Use At College Claimed

West Van Office WA2-3284

West Vancouver School Board is not doing enough to curb marijuana use in Capilano College, says Bill Clancey, recently-acclaimed chairman of "Parents Anonymous."

In response to a charge from a member of the audience at an organizational meeting of the anti-drug group that students at the college "sit in the halls and smoke marijuana freely," Clancey said "if someone is caught with it they've got to be made an example."

"What is the school board doing about this?"

he asked.

Meeting was the first of the West Vancouver chapter of the group, organized originally in Vancouver by Dan Giroday after his son Dennis leaped to his death from a West End apartment building after taking LSD a year ago.

Giroday, guest speaker at the meeting, said society has learned to cope with alcohol, but not with marijuana. Liquor, he said, can be standardized, but marijuana can't because it is illegal. He called for stiffer penalties against those who sell marijuana.

Police Chief Moir MacBrayne, also present, hinted that the drug problem is overestimated, citing figures based on a study carried out by the Narcotics Addiction Foundation which found only a small percentage of high school students had ever used drugs. An even smaller group used them regularly.

"I can't say drugs are rampant in this

municipality," he said.

However, MacBrayne admitted marijuana is cultivated in West Vancouver and said LDS is manufactured in several places throughout the province.

Audrey Sayles, later elected treasurer of the group, said in a prepared statement that drug pushers are "callous murderers" and "shadowy merchants of hell." A prominent doctor, she said, has seven patients "whose minds are gone" as a result of drug use.

Chairman Clancey said after the meeting Parents Anonymous plans to set up a "crisis centre" where people with drug problems can come for help. He said also the group will meet with school officials and possibly arrange talks at the schools by drug experts.

Parents Anonymous will meet again next month.

Serious Charge

There was an accusation made at the inaugural meeting of Parents Anonymous in West Vancouver last week that some Capilano College students have been seen openly smoking marijuana in the corridors of Vancouver Secondary West School.

It is a charge that Capilano College Council and Principal Alf Glenesk cannot let go unchallenged. In fairness to local taxpayers, who help finance operation of the College, they should launch an immediate investigation if they have not already done so.

It is imperative that it be ascertained if there is any truth to the allegations...

If there is, it should be expected that quick and immediate steps

Hopefully, the College will be found clean.

The good name of the College is at stake. Parents will think twice about wanting their children to attend an institution where drugs, hard or soft, might be readily available.

The formation of Parents Anonymous should be welcomed. It is a group of concerned parents and others who will help combat the drug menace on the North Shore.

Certainly authorities can use all the help they can get from responsible citizens.

West Vancouver Police Chief Moir MacBrayne has already made it quite clear that he wants more adults to aid police in their continuing drive to cope with the