

**Hampton** 15% off select rates when you book with advance purchase  
[book now](#)  
 we love having you here! Subject to availability. [Click here](#) for details.

**FREE** SUBSCRIBER REWARDS ONLINE  
[newsobserver.com/zone](http://newsobserver.com/zone)

[Subscribe](#) | [Subscriber Services](#) | [Subscriber Rewards](#)

Thursday, January 8, 2009

[Raleigh](#) [Durham](#) [Cary](#) [Chapel Hill](#)

Search N&O Search Advanced »

[Home](#) [News](#) [Sports](#) [Lifestyles](#) [Business](#) [Politics](#) [Opinion](#) [Obits](#) [Blogs](#) [Multimedia](#) [Classifieds](#) [Shopping](#) [Shortcuts](#) [Member Center](#) [About](#) [Triangle.com](#)

## A Front

[Home](#) / [Print](#) / [Sunday](#) / [A Front](#)

[Sunday](#) | [Monday](#) | [Tuesday](#) | [Wednesday](#) | [Thursday](#) | [Friday](#) | [Saturday](#) | [Back to Home](#)

[Comments](#) (0) | [Recommend](#) (0)

# Teenagers enlisted to persuade teens to stop smoking

Published: Sun, Dec. 28, 2008 12:30AM Modified Sun, Dec. 28, 2008 12:40AM

BOOKMARK E-MAIL PRINT TEXT SIZE: - +

Welcome [BECOME A MEMBER](#) | [Sign In](#)

The state Health and Wellness Trust Fund's initiative to fight teen smoking has enlisted the help of teens, among them La'Queaja Percell, 16, a junior at City of Medicine Academy in Durham.

She has been working for two years with a program called Tobacco Reality Unfiltered. She goes to two meetings a month, and she gives presentations about the evils of smoking to middle and elementary school students. She also sets up information tables at several athletic events a month.

Percell says she got involved because her mother smokes, and she wants her to stop. "I figure I can find a way to help her and other people as well," she said.



La'Queaja Percell, 16, of Durham, makes presentations to teenagers about the evils of smoking.

She said some students blow her off, but many actually listen. What gets their attention the most is the cost of smoking. She tells them that for the cost of a pack of cigarettes a day for a year -- well over \$1,000 -- they could buy a laptop computer or a Nintendo Wii.

"We have a PowerPoint that we show, and I can hear them going, 'Oh my gosh,' " she said.

Percell says she has only one friend who smokes regularly, and although many teenagers still think it's cool to smoke, she thinks smoking is less popular than it used to be among high school students.

"It's not near what it used to be," she said.

### More A Front

- [Deadly metal](#)
- [Armed with the facts, parents can get involved](#)
- [Sunday Forum](#)
- [Transformed by romance](#)
- [Freeman blended Mayberry manner with liberal views](#)
- [Milwaukee cuts killings by a third](#)

**I Can't Believe You Don't Have Life Insurance!**

	age	male
10-Yr Level Term Life Insurance	35	\$18.19
\$500,000 Policy (monthly premiums)	40	\$21.88
	45	\$33.89
	50	\$50.75

ARALifestyle.com

[Build Muscle and Get Ripped without Steroids](#)

[The Truth About Hair-loss Myths](#)

[Turned Down for an Auto Loan? There are Options](#)

Advertising provided by: ARALifestyle.com

**ask the expert** [click here to meet the experts](#)

**skirt! magazine** real women. real skirts.

### Most Popular

- Last 24 Hours**
- [Deathbed words leave hit-and-run mystery](#)
  - [Fantasia's home set for auction](#)
  - [Peak Fitness settles suit, agrees to make changes](#)
  - [Teen caught in pond near mall](#)
  - [Heels finally get it going](#)

**Last 7 Days**

---

© Copyright 2009, The News & Observer Publishing Company  
A subsidiary of The McClatchy Company  
[Help](#) | [Contact Us](#) | [Parental Consent](#) | [Privacy](#) | [Terms of Use](#) | [RSS Feeds](#) | [N&O Store](#) | [Advertising](#)

