

Fighting Drugs

School Assessment Commendable

It's no secret that drug abuse is a big problem in Cobb County. The drug culture exists in all areas of our county, among people in widely differing walks of life. Worst of all, the drug problem pervades our schools, catching our students at a time when they are most vulnerable to peer pressure and the desire to try new and supposedly exciting ways of dealing with life.

In a survey conducted last winter by two Kennesaw College faculty members for United Way, Cobb County residents pinpointed the fight against drug and alcohol abuse as the top social service priority in Cobb.

Thus we are pleased to see the Cobb County Board of Education taking a step back to see exactly what is being done by the schools at this time, and to define how the school system can play a larger role in this critical issue.

We particularly applaud school board member Carolyn Duncan, who has put aside reticence about an intensely private matter to help make other parents aware of how to best combat drugs.

Mrs. Duncan is the mother of a teenage son who turned to smoking pot, drinking and dabbling in other drugs, before enrolling in the STRAIGHT pro-

VIEWPOINT — *Monday's seminar on fighting drug abuse, sponsored by the Cobb County Board of Education, is a good start in reassessing the role of the schools.*

gram for drug abusers in St. Petersburg, Fla. Finding out about the influence of drugs on her son's life caused Mrs. Duncan to reassess not only her family's personal situation but also the public response to drug abuse.

As a result, Cobb County School administrators are taking another look at systemwide ways of helping young people deal with this problem. On Monday, the board will host a day-long seminar to talk about their role.

Monday's seminar is a good start in reassessing what the schools can do, and Cobb County will be better for it.