Expert warns about dangers of drugs and alcohol

Peer pressure can make the difference for anyone who drinks too much cr takes drugs, according to a speaker Al Dicken, who works in a student

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Al Dicken said. "Be deadly Silence," Dicken told student 'inarc.' Keep in mind, they don't

service center in West Bloomfield High dents they had the right and, In Iact, School, spoke to seniors of Cranbrook the responsibility to talk to friends if and Kingswood schools as part of a they think drinking is getting out of abuse.

know what condition they're in."

Dicken said friends who notice a change in behavior or that drinking is affecting a friend's work or school should confront that person with their

"AT SOME POINT, drinking gets

Students gather to fight alcohol

A thousand high school scalors from them dozens of reasons not to drink and emetro area are expected to contige on Roma's of Livonia Tuesday are one-day conference sure to give Drunk Drivers (SADD) and local media, A silek ad published in Detroit's two daily newspapers this week and aired in WDIV-TV (channel 4) asks students and their parents to sign a pledge out to his students of two models. As all the program is especially geared to the upcoming celebrants of prom night and graduation parties. A silek ad published in Detroit's two daily newspapers this week and aired in WDIV-TV (channel 4) asks students and their parents to sign a pledge out to his students. Proposal would ban drinking at house parties serve liquor at graduation parties, for example, because they are under pressure from their kids, she said. An ordinance would also clearly prohibit the actions of parents who feel there's nothing wrong with serving liquor to teen-agers, Nicolay said. "This isn't for anyone who gives a child a glass of wine on their birthday," Nicolay said. The ordinance would covers ocal a settings and parties. An ordinance would also help police control parties where teens are drinking, she added. Nicolay indicated that the model or-

Farmington Families in Action (FFA) members plan to ask the Farm-ington Hills City Council to consider an ordinance prohibiting parents from serving liquor, particularly in party settings, to anyone under 21 years of

settings, to anyone under 21 years of settings, to anyone under 21 years of set.

A.4's advisory board Thursday agreed to ask council members to consider adopting an ordinance that includes \$500 time against parents who are found serving liquor to minors, and Betty Nicolay, direct and one of the founding members of FFA.

Although FFA members are hoping council will consider their request for the ordinance at tonight's meeting, the issue is not on the agenda. But FFA representatives may raise the saud during the open comment portion of the meeting.

An ordinance prohibiting parents from serving liquor to minors would provide parents with "an excuse not to serve." Nicolay said. Parents often

A silck ad published in Detroit's two daily newspapers this week and aired on WDIV-TV (channel 4) asks students and their parents to sign a pledge promising not to drink and drive or drive with anyone who has been drinking, especially during the upcoming party season. It's called the Project Graduation piedge.

If at least 50 percent of each class signs the pledge, the school will make the WDIV honor rolf and may get a spe-cial on-air mention, the ad promises.

"Nineteen percent of all drivers are in the high school age bracket. Yet 44 percent of auto deaths related to drunk driving occur in this age group," said Roseanne Weatherly, of Ruben Adver-tising Agency in Southfield, creators of the ad.

"HALF OF the 9,000 teens who die each year are victims of alcohol relat-ed accidents — these especially occur during prom and graduation nights."

The April 23 conference will include ine April 23 conference will include personal horror stories from police of-ficers, alcohol victims and a former drunk driver who is now a paraplegic, Weatherly said. Student leaders in a five county area have been invited. "We hope they will go back to their

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"We had an assembly attended by 450 students on April 2. We passed out contracts similar to the project gradu-ation pledge after the assembly, but the kids aren't signing them and turning them in,' he said.

"It's hard to get people committed. Once it catches on, I just know it will snowball."

Mack started a SADD chapter at Stephenson last year to increase student awareness of the problem.

"Students must get involved because this is a student problem," he said.

He thinks the project graduation pledge is ill-timed with seniors still away on annual spring jaunts to Florida and he also felt it should be almed at all high school students.

"The pledge shouldn't be just for seniors," Mack said. "I'd like to see it geared to all high school students."

scared to all high school students it's casier to get a person committed who has never drank and drove than change the behavior of someone who has been drinking and driving dozens of times and just doesn't see the danger.

"Kids seem to think they will live forever," he added. "The reality is, if they drink and drive, they could die."

bigger than the person. That's where friends have to step in," he said.

According to the slide presentation, when talking to someone about their drinking problem, make sure the sub-ject is sober. Tell that person what you don't like about them when they be-come intoxicated or high. And follow through by helping. through by helping.

Once the problem is brought out into the open, Dicken said, friends should encourage moderation or even abstinence from alcohol. If a person changes after being confronted, they can control their drinking, if that person cannot curtail drinking, Dicken said, alcoholism can be present.

Upcoming proms and graduations often bring parties, where drinking is encouraged by poers.

"You should have a good time, but be under control. Think ahead. You have a right to remain safe, Don't be afraid not to get in the car with somene who has had too much, "Dicken said." The lit interesting, at proms and graduations, we have to drink to have a good time. Shouldn't we look at that," he added.

he added.

MOST STUDENTS will go on from the high school setting to a less-supervised college campus, where you're pretty much on your own," Dicken said. With that new freedom comes personal choices that must be made about alcohol and drugs. He told the story of two Dearborn students who were killed when their car was hit by a van heading the wrong way on 1-94. The driver of the van, who was also killed, was drunk. The student driving the car had been drinking, but was under the 1. percent limit. Bicken said two other cars had pulled off the road in front of the oncoming van, but the students apparently did not react quickly enough. Perhaps their blurred judgment cost them their lives.

"Not everybody who drinks is going

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to become chemically dependent," he explained. "It doesn't take much, just one mistake."

one mistake."

ONE STUDENT asked why some parents would not allow their under-21 children to drink at home, when they know the alternative is to do it in cars or at parties. "I think it should be accepted in a mellow fashion," he said.

"We can't keep drugs and alcohol from you," Dicken responded, "but we can't condone it either."

Allowing kids to go to Florida on spring breaks with their buddles who have a history of heavy drinking and drug use is a questionable decision, Dicken said. "Sometimes we put kids in

drug use is a questionable decision, Dicken said. "Sometimes we put kids in situations where they're bound to fail."

Varmington **Observer**

WINSTIFE
WISS 187-840
Published every Monday and Thursday
Published every Monday and Thursday
90 Deserver & Eccontric Newspapers,
36251 Schootcraft, Livenila, MI 48150.
Scoond-class postage paid at Livenila,
MI 48151. Address all mail (subscrip-lion, change of address, Form 3558) to
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Run plannec for May 4th

Single Point Ministries of Livonia ill be holding the Eagle Run Satur-

will be holding the Eagle Run Satur-day, May 4.

The one-mile Fun Rua will be 3:30
p.m. and the 10-kilometer Run will be 4
p.m. in Maybury State Park on Eight Mile Road in Northville.

Following the races will be a dinner and awards ceremony featuring Ann Klemel, author of "Running to Win."

control parties where teems are orining, she added.

Nicolay indicated that the model orinance FFA plans to present to the city council is based on similar ordinances in other communities and states.

FFA members have not yet planned on requesting such an ordinance from the Farmington City Council, Nicolay

said.
"We do not have anyone representing
Farmington (on the FFA advisory
board)," she said.

For registration and further information, call 422-1150 and ask for Single Point Ministries.

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If and to share of with others.

It and to share of the with the are please a natural, but we tend to keep these inside—guilt and regret. Death, especially when it is unexpected, is an interruption of life. It can come in the middle of a quarrot or family fout, it can come before we got around to ever expressing our love. As a result, we gan be latt with terrible feelings of guilt and regret.

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