

Hey, grads, don't drive drunk: SADD

"Don't say goodbye, say Bon Voyage," a line from a song in Mercy High School's recent spring production "Anything Goes," works as an appropriate theme for the senior graduation party — a first for the Farmington Hills school.

Preps and the set from the show, a cruise ship, will be used as the main backdrop for the all-night party following an outdoor graduation at Meadow Brook Music Theatre in Rochester Hills on Friday, May 29.

Joining the three Farmington public high schools in such an event, the all-girls parochial school at 11 Mile and Middlebelt hopes to make the

event an annual affair. It is being organized as a safe alternative to other parties, according to organizers.

To accomplish the goal, support is sought from the students, parents and administration along with local merchants and civic officials.

The party was organized several months ago, and letters were sent to parents of junior students in March, asking for help with the party. Guidelines were approved by the school and senior parents at a senior parent meeting.

Dennis and Lynn Pheneys, parents of a graduating senior and co-chairs of the party, took a written poll of

students to get ideas for the evening's entertainment. Both the Mothers and Fathers clubs are working with Mercy's Students Against Driving Drunk chapter to spur participation and enthusiasm for a fun-filled, alcohol-free graduation night.

"SADD spurred the whole idea," said Mary Sue Ewing, one of the organizers and mother of a senior student.

Students will check in between 11 p.m. and midnight and will not be allowed to leave the party unless parents are called. The party will end with a 5 a.m. breakfast.

In addition, the cafeteria staff will provide food all night and the pool and gym will be open throughout the party. A videotape of the graduation ceremony will run continuously and music will be provided by a disc jockey.

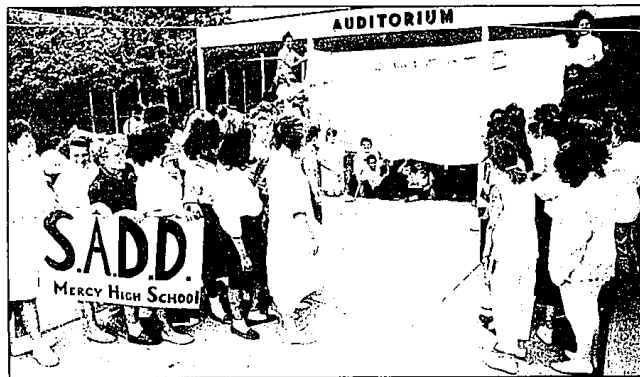
Among the variety of activities planned are games with prizes donated by parents and the community, a recording studio to make individual tapes and personalized helium balloons will be released in a "balloon lift" after breakfast.

The seniors are permitted to bring dates if they wish, organizers said. As with other senior parties in the area, a fee is being charged to defray party expenses. Mercy seniors will pay \$10.

Donations from the community are welcome. Gift donations should be marked for the graduation party and left at the Mercy reception desk.

Money donations and student reservations should be sent to Thomas Deward, 25806 Glover Court, Farmington Hills, Mich. 48018.

Further information can be obtained by calling the Pheneys at 478-8335 or 553-2300.



Mercy High students announce "Project Graduation."

RANDY BORST/staff photographer

road watch

Last September, residents of Farmington Hills approved a \$7 million bond issue designed for major road improvements. Road work has already begun and plans call for repairs and improvements to continue throughout the city for the next two years.

This, of course, will cause motorists some inconvenience as major roads are blocked off and normal driving routes are detoured. The end results, however, will be less congestion, better traffic capacity and improved road safety in the community. It's called progress, and the city administration asks for your patience and understanding through this road improvement plan of action.

Roads currently under construction:

- Halsted Road between 12 and 14 Mile roads will be closed for paving from Monday, May 18, until the end of July.

- Thirteen Mile, between Halsted and Haggerty, will be closed for gas main lowering and paving from Monday, May 18, to mid-July.
- Thirteen Mile, west of Orchard Lake Road to Chesterbrook is under construction but open to traffic. Road work should be completed by the end of the month.
- Twelve Mile, between Middlebelt and Inkster, is closed to through traffic until Labor Day for reconstruction of the Pebble Creek Bridge.

For further information on local road construction, call the Farmington Hills Engineering office, 473-9590, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

This column, scheduled to run through the summer, will regularly provide Farmington Hills residents with an update of road construction in the city. It is compiled by the Department of Special Services.

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