

Sendoff

New grads party away 'their' night

By Lisa Girbach
special writer

MORE THAN 200 graduates and many of their parents helped make the Farmington High School

All-Night Party June 11 a success. The party, which ran from 11 p.m. to 5 a.m., gave 214 students a place to go after commencement exercises at Ford Auditorium.

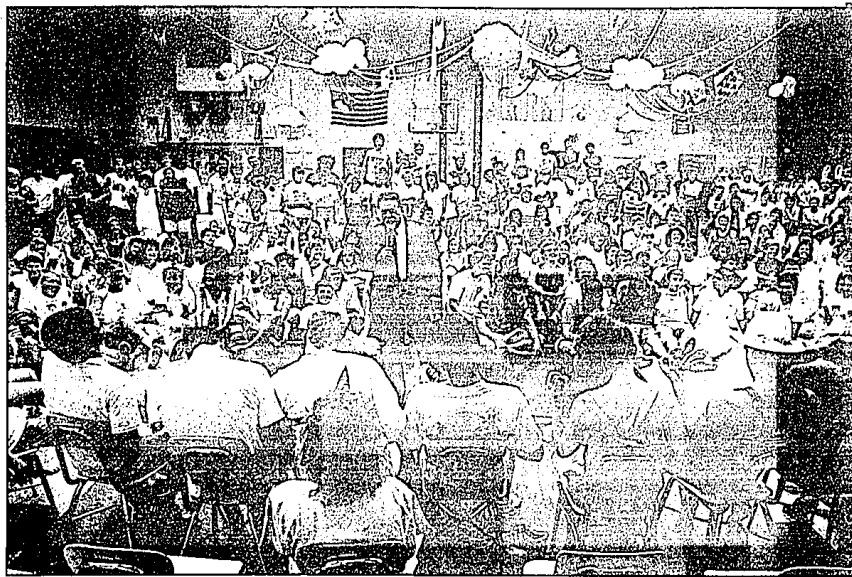
Donations from merchants, parents and civic and booster clubs contributed to the variety of activities at the party.

Party-goers could participate in Las Vegas-style casino gambling, enjoy refreshments, see a hypnotist show, have caricatures drawn, swim in the pool or take part in many other things.

Snacking after sitting for hours in the hot auditorium was ideal to a lot of students. Parents offered pizza, popcorn, chips and pop.

While they ate, students could watch music videos or videotapes of the prom, commencement and other activities seniors were involved in during the spring semester. Two VCRs were set up in the food room.

FOR MANY graduates, the hypnotist was the highlight of the evening. The hypnotist asked participants to do such things as lose and search for their belly buttons, take a ride on an airplane and pretend to be household appliances. Several students were surprised there was a hypnotist be-



Hypnotist Ron Hutchings (center) of Livonia hypnotizes a group of Farmington High graduates, using the gym as a backdrop.

cause earlier in the year the FHS administration had not allowed a hypnotist show.

The Moonwalk and the tricycles were a major attraction, mainly because they let the graduates behave like children for one last time.

Graduate Jeff Haberstroh said he was at the party because, "It is a lot of fun and it is probably the last time I'll be at the school with all my friends."

Most students liked the party be-

cause it brought them all together for one last time and had more to offer than parties at homes. A sense of camaraderie touched all the seniors as they partied until dawn during their last night as high school students. College or work awaited for many.

The all-night parties held at all three Farmington high schools were organized to combat teen drinking and driving after commencement. Parents and school faculties believe the parties worthwhile because they keep students away from liquor.

"If it (the all night party) saves just one kid, it's well worth it," said FHS social studies teacher Michael Hayek.

THE SENIORS also appreciate the party because it keeps them off the streets and away from other drunk drivers. Graduate Trudy Papler said, "The party was a good way to get kids off the street where they would normally be."

Organizing and setting up the party were done by parent volunteers. Barb Howell, mother of Steve and co-chairwoman with Jody Smith, got

involved because it was one of the last things she felt she could do as a parent of a graduating senior. Melissa Maguire's mother, Pam, volunteered because she wanted to do something as a parent for her daughter. "It's probably one of the best things a parent can do," she said.

Ideas for the party and how to make it successful come from previous parties, parties at other schools and feedback from committee members. Once the all-night party is over, reports are made over what was liked best, what was least popular and other categories.



Ken Bergerson (left), Eric Curtis and Ron Agwa sign their names and leave messages on a sheet signed by graduates for display at class reunions.



The wrestler's training room was converted to a cafeteria where students could snack. Above, graduate Rachel Mullins (right) munches on pizza with friend Bayda Hannosh.



Graduates Karl Borbi (left) and Tracy Jourden enjoy the hypnosis show.

Staff photos by Randy Borst

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