## Speaker urges parents to take PRIDE in values

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Bill Oliver, founder of the Atlanta-based PRIDE group, emphasized the need for strong family values and parnatal involvement in the keynote address for
the 1994 Farmington Families in
Action Substance Abuse kickoff
breakfast Friday at Glein Oaks
Golf Club in Farmington Hills.

Speaking before a crowd of 300,
Oliver drove home the theme—
the family—by streasing the importance of a healthy belief system within the family and calling
for parnata to become aware of
what is going on in their kiddlives to help steer young people
eway from drug and alcohol use.

"The lastic is what our children
believe, not what they know, It is
not knowledge that determines
one's behavior, it's one's own beliefa," Oliver said.

If parents can reach youngsters

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struggling with their belief sys-tems at a "gut" level, there is a better chance to impact them in a positive way, Oliver said.

better chance to impact them in a positive way, Oliver said.
It starts at home Oliver criticized the current approach of dealing with substance bose, which he said often relies to the contract of the said of the said of the contract of the said often class undercament, as ineffective.

What is needed instead is a conclinated effort that generate primarily from a youngster's home and family life, using the schools and law enforcement services as resources, he said.

"It's not the school's responsibility to raise children. It's not the church's responsibility to raise this contract of the church's responsibility to raise the people who are going to have an impact on these kids. Ordinary mamas,

ordinary daddles raising ordinary kids. What's going to work is ordinary people raising ordinary kids in wonderful communities like Farmington Hills, he said. Oliver praised Farmington Hills as a city with demonstrated concern for its young people and expressed optimism for a successful campaign against substance abuse within the community.

Get parents involved
Yet it's vital that more and
more people become part of this
effort, he said.
"I challenge you, I dare you, I
implore you to go get more mome
and dads involved. You have to
get them excited, and then you
can get them involved," he said.
The audience was made up of
local community officials, business leaders, representatives from
local organizations, teachers and
parents.

parents.

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"His speech was thought-provoking in trying to get us to look at the problem from a different perspective than we do now," said Mary Ellen Thompson, a teacher at East Middle School, Farmington Hills.
"And I think we sil need to work together — parents, the schools and the community. Too often, the schools are blamed for all the problems. What (Oliver) is saying is that this is a community problem yet it's something parents really need to address," she added.

Mayor Pro Tem Joanne

added.
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McShane, who also aits on the
FFIA board, agreed that this is an
issue needing attention and said
that the people of Farmington and
Farmington Hills can be counted
on to deal with it.
A caring community
"This is indeed a caring community, there's no doubt about it.

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People here want to do what is right for the community. Though I wish somehow we could take this message to others, to other communities. We need to show people that it's all about those who care.

people that it's all about those who care."

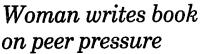
Some folks who turned out for the speech, however, said the subjects of substance abuse and atrong family values are complex issues, affected by many factors that weren' introduced.

"I think he missed an important point," said Lloyd Smith, Farmington High School debats coach. "Lots of kids come from one-parent families and these families aren's solidly together. The kids have a tremendous sense of insecurity. So let's do something with the parents, too," said Smith, adding that an unfortunate message many kids are gitting nowadays, from TV and elsewhere, is that "if you can get

away with it, it's all right."
Added Southfieldd resident and Kiwanis Club member Phyllis Liedkiewicz "(Oliver) really brings this issue to heart. The more people become interested the more involved they will be. If we never think about or talk about these things, we'll nover get involved and be able to do anything to change them for the better."

ishing to change them for the better."
FFIA Chairman Betty Nicolay and she was quite pleased with the turnout and expected Oliver's message to be carried throughout the community.

"He certainly gave us a challenge, to get more parents to accept their responsibilities. But it is because of people like Bill Oliver and all those who came in support today that FFIA is as successful and why we're now in our 11th year. It's great to see so many people who care."



BY LARRY O'CONNOR

When it comes to peer pressure, saying no is never easy. Otherwise Sharon Scott wouldn't have been able to write seven books on the A two-letter word wouldn't fill many pages.

Scott's books specialize in giving parents and children silts edivice on how to deflect the need to gwith the flow of the in-crowd.

The Dallas-based guidance counselor will speak 7-8-30 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 13, in the East Middle School cafetrist, 25000 Middlebelt, Farmington Hills. Admission is free, but the program is only open to parents.

Scott's books specialize in giving parents in free, but the program is only open to parents.

Scott's books appealaise in giving parents from the corn of early drug and alcohol and drug swareness month.

Peer pressure is often at the core of early drug and alcohol use, parent of the corn of early drug and alcohol use, pare





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