

Teen grads map out non-alcoholic rites

By Teri Banna
staff writer

Strong arms helped support Brian Moore as he made his way to the podium Tuesday to address an assembly of more than 1,000 teen-agers and adults at the kickoff workshop for "Project Graduation" in Roma's of Livonia.

The 24-year-old Livonian spoke slowly and deliberately when he told of the events that left him paralyzed seven years ago when as a 17-year-old Bentley High School student he and two friends over a Memorial Day weekend got into a car after a drinking spree and crashed.

"My two friends both had minor cuts; Andy was knocked out; and Tom suffered a shoulder injury. I was out for real bad and unconscious for more than nine months," said Moore, who is now in a wheelchair.

"Maybe my true story can exemplify

what drinking and driving will do to you. It's not worth it. Let me tell you."

Moore's personal testimony touched most who attended the program which was designed to encourage youngsters to have a safe alcohol-and-drug-free prom and graduation season. The audience included students from 250 high schools throughout Wayne, Oakland, Macomb, Washtenaw and Monroe counties.

MARK STUART, a 17-year-old senior at Livonia's Stevenson High School, said "to see how hard his Brian was an example that reinforces the (program's) goal to get others to commit themselves against drinking and driving." Stuart was one of seven Stevenson students attending who attended the workshop. He is a member of SADD (Students Against Drunk Driving), one of the prolated sponsoring groups.

Another student, Robin Rhodes, 17, a

'Maybe my true story can exemplify what drinking and driving will do to you. It's not worth it.'

— Brian Moore

former Bentley High School student

senior at Ann Arbor's Huron High School, was also inspired by Moore's talk.

"It made me think a lot of my friends," Rhodes said.

"Most of my friends are drinking oriented. I guess it's a fact of school life. And it's true, you always think, 'I'll never happen to you, just like what Brian said. It will make me think twice.'"

Moore told the students and school-related adults in the audience of his struggles to regain his mobility. "I still have a way to go," Moore said.

"I'm confident I'll walk fine again someday," he said.

He encouraged the "young women to stand up to your guy and let him know when he's out drinking you don't want to put your life on the line and ride with a drunk driver. And don't drink and drive, yourselves, you young men."

"Believe me, living in a hospital is usually a very lonely place."

Aside from affecting his body, the crash left his "mind scattered," he said.

"I USED to write a lot, stories, po-

ems, newspaper articles for school, and one problem the crash caused still after seven years is that I'm not able to organize my thoughts even writing or speaking. I'm sorry for that here, but I believe that I still can give you a fair warning. I hope none of you have to go through the hell I did. It's a miracle we all survived the crash."

"Thank you and spread the word," he ended and received a standing ovation.

In addition to Moore, other workshop speakers included Detroit Free Press columnist Bob Talbert, who spoke of his own alcoholism and his 23 years of drink-free living, and Ted Hunt, a retired military officer and motivational speaker.

Hunt's message focused on the "prevention" of such social problems by youngsters learning to "feel good about yourself. 'If your mind conceives it, and you believe it, then you can achieve it,'" said Hunt.

Presentations were made by students and police officials. Tuesday's program also included rap sessions in which alternate ways to celebrate prom and graduation season were discussed.

Marge Moore credited her son's improvement when he was hospitalized for two years following the accident and since then to his strong will and determination.

"He will not learn to use that wheelchair, for instance," she said, looking over to where a small crowd and television reporters had gathered around her son, who had lifted himself up out of the chair to greet them. "The reason is he refuses to admit he'll be in it for the rest of his life."

"He's always been very determined," she added. "If you cross him, he'll argue 'til day one."

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City council gives mixed reviews to anti-drinking-party proposal

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"If you don't see someone give it to them, it's difficult to prosecute," Cavan said.

"The ordinance we are looking at puts the burden on the person whose home it (a party) is at," Cavan said.

Generally when the police are called to a party, Cavan said, "we can only attempt to break up the party."

Examples of some of the ordinances under which police can act when called to a party are assault and assault and

battery, disturbing the peace, fighting, improper language, improper conduct and contribution to neglect or delinquency of children.

Under the suggested ordinance, parents who serve liquor to minors or who knowingly or even unknowingly allow liquor to be served at their home whether they are present or not, would be subject to a \$500 fine.

Serving liquor to minors at religious ceremonies and activities would be allowed under the ordinance, Cavan said.

Discussing the reasons for such an

ordinance, Nickolay said it would give parents "an excuse not to serve" liquor when hosting a party for minors.

"There are parents who just feel the pressure from the kids," she said.

On the other hand, an ordinance would clearly prohibit the actions of parents who feel there's nothing wrong with serving liquor to teen-agers, Nickolay said.

"I think it is extremely important that parents know what their legal rights and obligations are," she said.

"A lot of people say well that's not

going to happen to my kid," Nickolay said about the use of alcohol and drugs.

"But there's an awful lot of good kids out there who are experimenting."

"The best we can do is give parents the information. You give them the facts and let them make their own decisions."

ADMITTING AN ORDINANCE would not be a "panacea," Cavan said such controls would give police added help in controlling drinking among minors.

"To be honest, it's the deterrent effect," Cavan said. "It's not so much to enforce, but it gives parents an excuse."

While Marks argued that the suggested ordinance doesn't appear strong enough, Duffey said she felt the ordinance couldn't be enforced.

"I don't like a law that can't be enforced," she said. "It shouldn't be on the books. Just because you've got an ordinance on the books doesn't make people aware of it."

Saying an ordinance wouldn't solve the problem of teen-agers drinking, Marks said "it's a beginning."

"We're a country of laws," he continued. "We just passed a law saying you must wear a seat belt."

"Don't jeopardize the rest of this community. I'm ready to act on this thing. I want to vote on it tonight."



'It is illegal for these young people to be drinking and we think parents should be held responsible.'

— Betty Nickolay
FFA president

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Accidents claim many teens

Teen-age drivers in Farmington Hills are involved in one out of every three traffic accidents, according to Police Chief William Dwyer.

Nationally, teens are involved in one out of every five accidents. Also on a national level, approximately 150 teen-agers are involved in alcohol-related accidents every day, Dwyer said in a report to the Farmington Hills City Council.

Dwyer's report coincided with the Farmington Families in Action's (FFA) request to the city council Monday to adopt an ordinance prohibiting parents

from serving liquor to anyone under 21.

In 1984, four fatal accidents, that included the deaths of two teen-agers, occurred in Farmington Hills, Dwyer said. Two of the four accidents were alcohol-related.

In the first half of 1984, 314 accidents occurred in the city. Of the total, 155 involved 18- and 19-year-olds; 81 of them involved 17-year-olds; and 73 involved 16-year-olds.

In the first 3 1/2 months of 1985, five fatal accidents occurred within the city limits. Of the five, three were alcohol-related.

While teens account for 12.5 percent of the city's total population, they were involved in 35 percent of all accidents recorded in 1983. The same percentage applied to the first half of 1984, Dwyer said.

Of the total 33,787 accidents in Oakland County in 1983, 30 percent involved teen-agers, he said.

DESPITE THE statistics, Dwyer said that alcohol abuse in the city "appears to be no greater than that of other suburban communities."

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He commands the deep with a nuclear thrust

By Ruth Noonan
special writer

Capt. Jim Baumstark wants to make USS Michigan the best Trident submarine going. That shouldn't be too hard for the son of Walter and Mary Baumstark of Farmington Hills.

Baumstark just completed a successful tour as commanding officer of one of the most decorated submarines in the U.S. Navy's Atlantic Fleet.

"That ship really had a nose for action," Baumstark said of his tour in the submarine USS Lapon based at Norfolk, Va.

For his action, Baumstark will be rewarded June 19, when he takes command of USS Michigan, a Trident submarine based near Bremerton, Wash.

"It's five-feet longer than the Washington Monument is high," Baumstark said of his new command, the Navy's second Trident ballistic missile submarine and the third ship named for the state.

Walter Baumstark, who will travel to Bremerton to see his son take charge of USS Michigan, did not always share Jim's enthusiasm.

"You can go to any college in the country. Why do you want to go to the Naval Academy?" Baumstark said his father once argued. The founder of Detroit's Walter A. Baumstark and Co., a manufacturers representative, recently sold the company that bears his name.

"I said, 'Because it's something different. It's challenging,'" Baumstark said. "You know, tens of thousands of people in the Midwest grow up and never leave it."

"THIS REALLY sounds corny, but there used to be a show on TV in the late '50s called 'Men of Annapolis.' I used to watch that show religiously."

Jim Baumstark's own son, Chris, one of six children, attends the Virginia Military Institute in Lexington, Va., a few hours from the Baumstark's home near Norfolk.

"He's not interested in submarines yet," Baumstark said with a grin. "I'm still working on him."

USS Michigan's new commanding officer and his wife, Pat, are fixing up their Virginia home to put it on the market. Once again, the Briarcliff Manor, N.Y., native will pull up stakes and follow her husband to a new duty station.

"The best thing is probably the people," Pat Wilson Baumstark said of her 21 years as a Navy wife. She estimates Jim has been at sea 40-50 percent of their marriage. "Need draws people together quickly," she adds.

"The separations are terrible, but each homecoming is a rebirth of your marriage," she said.

The Baumstarks met on a blind date at the Naval Academy in the spring of 1962.

"I think he liked my best friend," Pat Baumstark said of her visit to the academy near Washington. "People were always getting us confused."

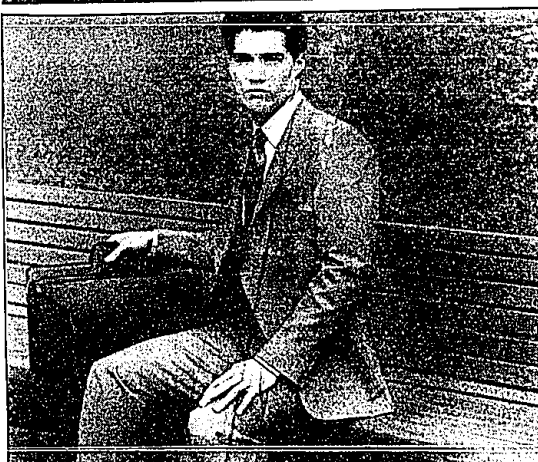
But he followed Pat to the camp where she was a counselor that summer.

"He just showed up one day. It was very embarrassing since the person I was serious about was at camp, too."

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Photo by Don Korzavski

Capt. Jim Baumstark will take command of the Trident submarine USS Michigan on June 19. He recently completed a tour

of duty as commanding officer of the USS Lapon which is shown in this photo.