

# Parents get primer on senior year, alcohol, parties

BY TIM SMITH  
STAFF WRITER

The recent keg beer party involving teenage drinking lent more relevance to Wednesday's meeting of mostly parents of seniors at Farmington High School — an annual session where parents talk to counselors and police about substance abuse and other issues they might encounter between now and graduation night.

According to FHS assistant

principal John Barrett, the meeting went well, attended by about 100 parents, all but "three or four" who were parents of seniors.

"It was very positive," Barrett said. "Parents are always concerned about the livelihood of their sons and daughters, particularly as they get close to their last year in high school." For some kids, he continued, that senior year can have plenty of distractions, such as house

parties and spring break trips.

Barrett said the Oct. 25 party on Saxony was not delved into specifically at the meeting, but it was "talked about in general terms."

"We did begin a discussion about the awareness of (teenage) drinking," Barrett said. "... And that seems to be starting younger. Parents need to be able to talk to each other" about what they are witnessing among their kids.

Parents were also encouraged to talk with their kids about the perils of substance abuse.

During Wednesday's meeting, high school police liaison Officer Christine Schutz discussed various city ordinances and penalties pertaining to matters such as substance abuse, liquor availability and the rules parents should try to establish.

High school counselors and social workers also were on hand to talk with parents, Barrett

said.

The meeting also included comments from Farmington Board of Education President Linda Enberg. She was at the session to represent "Talking to Your Kids About Alcohol," a program in which she is trained.

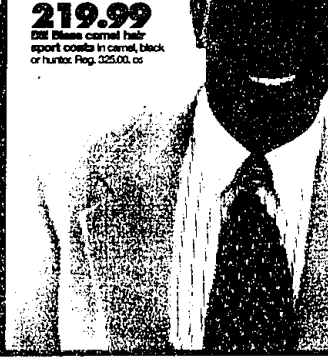
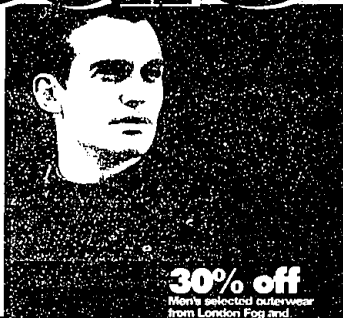
FHS principal Jim Myers last week said it was his understanding that "a considerable number" of students from his school were at the party, hosted by the mother and stepfather of a 17-year-

old senior.

Farmington Public Safety Deputy Director Mike Wiggins last week said misdemeanor tickets were issued against the adults the night of the party for violating the Farmington city ordinance that forbids "furnishing alcoholic beverages to minors under age 21."

Two other FHS seniors were also issued tickets for being minors under the influence of alcohol.

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