

ECHO ECHO ECHO

Mercy SADD chapter aims to keep holidays merry

By Shealy McGuire
Our Lady of Mercy High School

Holiday time is the busiest time of year, not only for department stores and Santa's elves, but for police departments as well. With all the season's festivities and the enjoyment of "good spirits," the number of automobile accidents related to driving while intoxicated increases dramatically. In an average day in the United States, 300 teenagers are killed or seriously injured as a direct result of alcohol-related auto accidents. The fact that this number increases during the holidays is tragic.



However, due to the efforts of several organizations such as MADD (Mothers Against Drunk Drivers), RAID (Rochester Against Intoxicated Drivers), and SADD (Students Against Driving Drunk), the annual statistics have decreased. These groups have become more effective and more numerous in the last few years. Now, nearly every high school has its own SADD chapter. But what is it? What do its members do, and why?

SADD is a club for people who are concerned about the problems and fatalities caused by DWI, and want to do something about it. SADD educates the community by publicizing the statistics and realities of driving while intoxicated.

"People think it just won't happen to them," said Denise Marentette, president of the SADD club at Mercy. "We're not condoning or condemning drinking — there may be a couple of members of SADD who drink! It's just that they are more aware of its implications."

The idea of having a SADD chapter at Our Lady of Mercy High School sparked from a powerful 1984 presentation by Jim Novak, moderator of the SADD club at Fairport High School. There was so much interest in forming a club that more than 150 people attended the first meeting. Since then, the Mercy SADD club has been very active in influencing the students and faculty at Mercy and other schools through its information, discussion, meetings and activities.

During the first week in December, for example, SADD invited the sheriff's department's Star Patrol to Mercy for Awareness Week to show its equipment and give talks about breathalizers and specific punishments for DWI. Also, on each day of Awareness Week, SADD presented a different statistic about drinking and driving. Did you know that a person dies from an alcohol-related accident every 23 minutes in the United States? It's horrifying, but unfortunately true.

The largest project each year for SADD is promoting the "Contract for Life" — a document signed by both parents and teenagers, stating that all signers promise not to drink and drive. If necessary, a party may call for a ride home, regardless of the time of day, without the party receiving the call getting upset or setting an immediate punishment. Rather, the contract encourages a discussion of the situation at a later time. These contracts will be distributed by SADD clubs as well as libraries, stores and restaurants during the holiday season.

SADD also promotes discussion of various situations and suggests alternatives concerning drinking. Among other measures, SADD urges people to take the following preventive measures for parties:

1. The host or hostess should take their guests' keys as the guests enter the party, and if necessary, provide a place to sleep if the



Photo illustration by Jeff Goulding/Courier-Journal

guest has had too much to drink.

2. There are non-alcoholic beverages available for those who are driving or do not want to drink.

3. Partygoers should designate one person in their group as the driver who promises not to drink that night.

If you find yourself at a party where people are drinking and the person who is going to drive you home has had too much to drink, but insists on driving anyway, you can:

1. Take away the person's keys.
 2. Go outside early in the evening and turn on the car's headlights to run down the battery.
 3. Let the air out of the tires.
- If all else fails, you can still call your

parents, using the "Contract for Life," or you can call the police to drive you home. All of these people are much more concerned about your safety and getting you home than about what you were doing or why you were at the party in the first place.

Remember, SADD's motto for the season is: "While you party over the holidays — don't make it your last."

SADD has become a very popular club all around the United States, and has been effective in helping people realize the implications of drinking and driving. If you have questions about SADD, or would like to start another chapter at your school, you can write or call SADD, 110 Pleasant Street, Corbin Plaza, Marlboro, Mass., 01752 or call (617)481-3568.

Speaking Out

By Molly Dillon
Bishop Kearney High School

It seems that 1986 has been a year for knocking teenagers by concentrating on their involvement in drug abuse, vandalism, permissiveness and other social problems. And while I'm not denying that some teens are mixed up in these abuses, let's start the new year by trying to remember that teenagers are also a great asset to society.

From participation in their schools' student councils to involvement in community organizations and volunteer work, teenagers today are taking a greater part in their society — and not just in a negative sense, as some people have come to believe.

Our communities are filled with problems and abuses, but teens are as concerned about some of them as adults are. We are directly in contact with and exposed to certain of these abuses, so we are extremely sensitive to them and have

been doing our best to counteract them.

Many schools have student self-help programs in which drug and alcohol abusers help each other by offering support and advice. In addition, a countywide student council in Monroe County is attempting to bridge the gap among the differing schools in our county and to deal with a variety of important issues.

Teenagers also do many charitable deeds to improve society. As a volunteer at Camp Good Days and Special Times, I have seen a great number of teenagers doing very positive things for other people. One look at the number of high school and college-aged people working at this camp would definitely give a lot of people new hope for today's youth. And Camp Good Days is by no means the only volunteer agency for which teens donate their efforts.

And, on a lighter note, who is more fun to be around than fun-filled, exciting teenagers? Let's be honest, adults sometimes forbid youths to do certain things simply because they are no longer able to do them. I advise any adult who is bitter about today's youth to spend a day with a teenager. I believe the experience will quickly change the adult's outlook.

How to choose a gift for mom or dad

Choosing gift's for parents can be fun. First you need some money. Then you need to see what your parents like. You must sneak out of the house. You also need a car. When you are all done you must hide the presents. When you want to wrap them you must be careful. Then you must put them under the tree very quietly!

Jennifer Toppi
St. John, Humboldt
Grade 3

How to tell Santa what you want for Christmas

You go to Midtown Plaza and you tell those guys and they're his helpers. And then they tell Santa.

Usually I don't bring a list but sometimes I do.

Travis Wolf
St. John, Humboldt
Kindergarten

How to tell Santa what you want for Christmas

Santa looks in his magic ball and then he knows what I want for Christmas.

Heather Coakley
St. John, Humboldt
Kindergarten

How to decorate a Christmas tree

First I go out and get my Christmas tree. Then I fill the Christmas tree stand with water. Then we let the tree get used to are house for a night. Then tomorrow night we will decorate our Christmas tree with ornaments and two angles and lights. Then I will wrap my mom's and dad's and my other family members's presents and put them under the Christmas tree and wait until Christmas time.

Lidja Gilmeister
St. John, Humboldt
Grade 2

Equal Time

DeSales High School

If you could give any gift to the world on Christmas, what would it be?

MICHELLE DERGO, Senior

I would give everyone their family home for Christmas. Being with your family is the most important part of Christmas, and I wish that all families could be together.



PAUL HEZEL, Freshman

I would give the world peace for Christmas. We don't have it now, and that's what Christ would have us give.



MARIO LaNASA, Sophomore

If I could give any gift to the world, it would be peace. With the state the world is in today, that's one thing we really need.



MOIRA CONOLLY, Junior

I would give peace. Peace brings stability, and stability would bring an end to many of the problems we have in this country.



HOUSE OF GUITARS

We received 20 correct entries identifying "Cats in the Cradle" as the 1974, Harry Chapin song.



The winner was Andrew Succi of Elmira.

MUSIC TRIVIA

This weeks question:

Who are the only recording artists to have the top five singles at one time?

A:

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____
Zip Code _____
School _____

Rules:

Each week, the Courier-Journal, in conjunction with the House of Guitars will feature a Music Trivia contest. All you have to do to enter is answer the question, fill in your name and address and the school you attend (if applicable), cut out the coupon, and send it in to the Courier-Journal. If more than one correct entry is received, a drawing will be held and one winning entry will be drawn.

If yours is the winning entry, you will be mailed a coupon for a free album or tape of your choice redeemable at the House of Guitars, 645 Titus Ave. All entries must be received within seven days of this papers issue date. Winning names and answers will be printed the week following each drawing.

The Courier-Journal
Music Trivia
1150 Buffalo Rd.
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