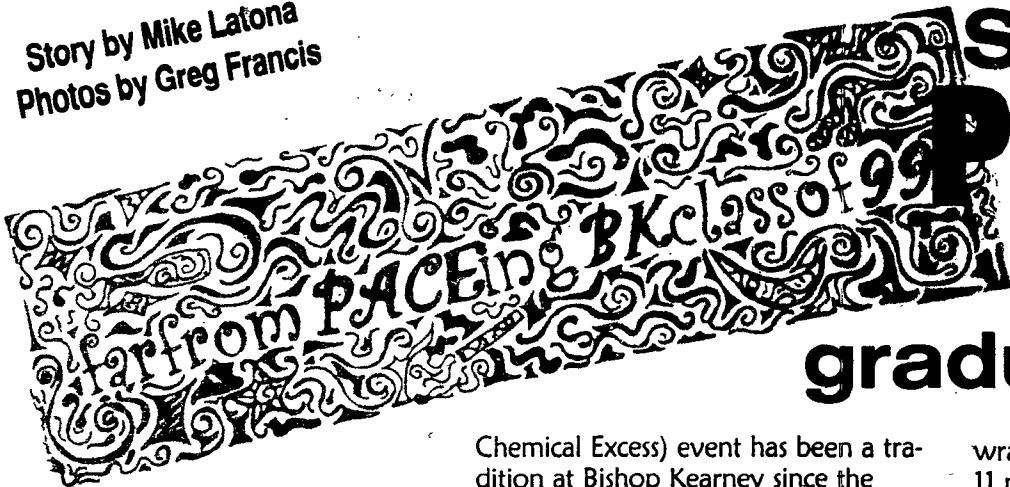


MOVE on the

Story by Mike Latona
Photos by Greg Francis



Setting the P.A.C.E. for safe graduation fun

As seniors left the Bishop Kearney High School parking lot June 10 to begin a long night of fun, they passed a sign near the school entrance saying, "HAVE A GREAT SUMMER."

The soon-to-be-graduates (their big day is June 27) were en route to the annual P.A.C.E. party. The event is designed to remind all who attend that you can indeed have a great summer — and a great life — without using drugs or alcohol.

More than 90 percent of Kearney's 131-member graduating class took part. Following opening ceremonies at the high school, seniors enjoyed the use of Bally's Total Fitness Center, followed by a dance at the Irondequoit Moose Lodge.

Bally's and the Moose lent their facilities, and other area businesses supported the cause by donating door prizes and transportation.

The P.A.C.E. (People Aware of

Chemical Excess) event has been a tradition at Bishop Kearney since the early 1980s.

As he observed the flurry of energy at Bally's, Louis D'Angelo, school principal, said the P.A.C.E. party is a convincing model of healthy recreation for teens.

"They don't have to drink or be high on drugs," D'Angelo said. "If you look around here, they're really having a good time."

"It's good to get a bunch of kids together and enjoy it without any of those bad things," added BK senior Jeff Weaver, 17, a parishioner at Rochester's St. John

the Evangelist Church on Humboldt Street.

Soaked with sweat, Jeff said he "played tennis and ate some watermelon" early that night and was planning to do a lot of swimming.

The menu of activities at Bally's also included volleyball, weightlifting, racquetball, treadmills, aerobics class, and even the Jacuzzi and sauna. From there, the seniors migrated to the Moose Lodge for dancing and karaoke, and returned to Kearney at 3 a.m. Going home for a few hours of sleep, they

wrapped up the festivities with a June 11 picnic at Durand Eastman Park. Despite the fun atmosphere, the

party also sought to draw attention to a more somber issue: incidents of chemical excess that can lead to tragedy. This potential is especially high at graduation time, D'Angelo said.

"I've always dreaded picking up the paper the day after a senior prom or graduation," he said, explaining that he might read about an accident that involved teens and drinking.

This awareness is a big reason why Barbara Scott supported the P.A.C.E. party by serving as one of 20 adult volunteers.

"We worry that (seniors are) making choices that are not the right ones, being swayed by peer pressure. We do this out of love, and concern for their safety," said Scott,

whose son, Steve, is a BK senior. The family attends Christ the King Parish in Irondequoit.

Kristin Strauss said she once rode in a car with a drunk driver, and she was so frightened that she vowed never to let it happen again.

"It was the scariest thing in my life," Kristin said.

Kristin said she knows three teens who have been in drinking-related accidents over the past year, including one girl who was killed.

"(But) you never think it could happen to you," said Kristin, 18, from Our Mother of Sorrows Church in Greece.

"It shakes you up when it's someone you know," added her friend Shannon Harrison, 18, from Holy Trinity Church in Webster.

Kristin and Shannon acknowledged that the P.A.C.E. party may not fully erase the temptation for seniors to drink at graduation-related events. However, they said that the party's theme might make seniors think twice about their actions.

"Drinking is a part of (graduation), but it's not a necessity," Kristin said.

COMING NEXT WEEK: Graduating heart patient



Bishop Kearney senior Bailey Rossi works out June 10 during P.A.C.E. (People Aware of Chemical Excess) party at Bally's Total Fitness, Irondequoit.



Kristin Strauss, left, and Shannon Harrison lift weights during the P.A.C.E. party.



Bishop Kearney senior Sean Murphy is launched by friends in the Bally's Total Fitness Center pool.

A YEAR 2000 PILGRIMAGE

OBERAMMERGAU PASSION PLAY

Performed only once every 10 years!
also touring Austria, Germany & Switzerland

Sign up by July 1, 1999
SAVE \$1000

Hosted by Fr. John Glogowski & Betty Murphy
St. Leo Church, Hilton

July 13-July 25, 2000

Highlights include St. Stephen's Cathedral in Vienna, Mozart's birthplace in Salzburg, Olympic Village in Innsbruck, the Shrine of the Black Madonna, and Frauenkirche in Munich and much much more!

Call 392-2710 today for details on how you can be a part of this millennial pilgrimage!

ESTABLISHED 1957
UNITOURS, Inc.

CA
V
to
By I
Assc
Su
vaca
to h
B
their
migh
versi
T
Stres
stres
dren
Fo
stres
shot
their
Lind
the P
"T
said.
other
In
stude
to pu
ramp
dren
cludi
sport
peer
from
the h
"W
today
have
don't
Mo
of div
tures
dren's
Child
range
porar
"O
Balog
She