

# STUDENTS AGAINST DESTRUCTIVE DECISIONS

A message from the S.A.D.D. Student of the Year...



## Memories That Will Last a Lifetime

by Justin Weseloh

Our high school years are ones that are filled with experiences that shape our lives for years to come. Some people's fondest memories are of those spent in high school. The football games and the much anticipated homecoming dance fill students across the nation with excitement throughout the fall. Holiday parties, winter formals, and basketball state finals propel teens through those cold winter months. Finally comes springtime! Spring break, prom and graduation help to close out the school year for students everywhere. For seniors, prom and graduation time marks the pinnacle of twelve years filled with cherished memories of friends and family.

Though this time is an exciting one that teens will carry with them for many years, if destructive decisions are made, this time can also bring much pain and not-so-fond memories of one's final time in school. As a senior myself, approaching the end of a very significant stage in my life, I have spent much time reflecting on those years passed, and if I have learned anything from my high school days, it is that drugs and alcohol never make any situation better. Come prom and graduation time, dress, hair and tuxedo decisions are not the only ones being made by teens. Many teens, unfortunately, find the need to make plans that include drugs and alcohol, in the hope of making the evening even more exciting. If only they had opened their eyes to the realization of the possible consequences they faced before they opened that fatal beer. Every year, teens die in auto accidents, young women are raped, and families are left with voids that can never be filled. So many teens feel that the only way to have fun is to drink and use drugs. What kind of memories are they going to have in ten years? What will they tell their kids when they are asked about their own high school years? More important, will they be around in ten years to have children?

Tragically and senselessly, drugs and alcohol take the lives of many teens each year. Memories of high school are not ones that need to be filled with hangovers, car accidents or, even worse, the loss of life. At SADD, we encourage young people to make good, positive decisions that will help them to live long, successful lives. There are so many wonderful opportunities for young people today, opportunities that are not attainable if students corrupt their lives with drugs and alcohol. As SADD Student of the Year, I encourage you to make this prom and graduation season the best ever. Together, let's keep the number of drug and alcohol-related fatalities to a minimum (even try to make them nonexistent) with our good decisions this season. Help your friends to stay safe, and encourage them to make good choices. One's high school days only mark the commencement of the rest of one's life. I hope all of you make the most of this exciting time in your lives and make good decisions, ones which do not include drugs and alcohol. Make prom and graduation experiences that you will be proud to remember and ones that will enable you to remember!!!

Remember, **SAFE** really does equal fun! *Pageantry* encourages our young readers to embrace the S.A.D.D. philosophy and to have a safe, fun Prom season.