



PREPARING for SADD's month-long emphasis on seat belt use and sober driving are (seated, from left) Minde Vince, secretary; Catherine Neill, vice president; (second row) Danielle Boyd, Andrea Edge, Jenny Rogers and faculty advisor Melba Johnson; and (back) Allison Hardee and Sgt. J.C. Strickland of the N.C. Highway Patrol.

West SADD Chapter Gets Grant For Safety Promotion

An appearance by Miss North Carolina 1993 Mary Susan Runion of Wilmington will highlight a month-long campaign by West Brunswick High School's SADD Club to discourage students' use of alcohol and encourage their use of seat belts.

West Brunswick's Students Against Driving Drunk chapter received a \$500 grant from the N.C. Governor's Highway Safety Program and the University of North Carolina Highway Safety Research Center for the project. West Brunswick is one of 70 high schools statewide to receive a cash award.

The SADD chapter advisor said the goal of the local program is to continue the high school's four-year record of no alcohol-related accidents during prom week. "We're going to be encouraging students not to drink and drive and to use their seat belts," said Advisor Melba Johnson.

The program will run from April 11 through May 10, with a special kickoff set the morning of April 11 and Runion's visit on April 21.

SADD members plan to erect signs at school exits encouraging students to use seat belts, survey student use of seat belts, and conduct a drug-free safety awareness creative writing activity in English classes. Juniors and seniors will also observe a mock crash.

Campaign efforts also include painting slogans such as "Get A Grip—Buckle Up" on campus speed bumps and rewarding student drivers who use their seat belts with a "Buckle Up" lane for quicker exit from the school.

Special appearances are planned by the "Grim

Reaper" and by crash dummies Vince and Larry.

In a joint writing project involving three schools, students from Shallotte Middle and Waccamaw Elementary will be asked to choose West Brunswick high students they know personally or have heard of and write a note encouraging that person to not drink and drive and to use a seat belt.

Miss Runion will visit the high school Thursday, April 21, talking with junior and senior classes during second and third period about substance abuse.

Studies conducted by the UNC Highway Research Safety Center in Chapel Hill show that teenage motorists stand the greatest risk of being involved in automobile crashes. They also suffer more serious and fatal crash injuries than any other motorist age group. In fact, one-half of all the youth ages 16 through 19 who die each year in the United States are killed in automobile crashes.

To compound the problem, younger drivers tend to use their seat belts less often than older drivers.

When teen-agers consume alcohol they become impaired more quickly. Alcohol-related crash fatality rates for persons ages 16 to 17 are nearly twice as high as rates for motorists age 25 and older. Alcohol-related fatalities for persons ages 18 to 20 are nearly three times greater.

The school cash grants are part of a research project. Center researchers are trying to determine if high school-based, student-coordinated promotional programs can affect teens' habits relating to wearing of seat belts and alcohol consumption and reduce crash-related deaths and injuries.

Diabetes Class Starts April 6 At Hospital

The spring session of The Brunswick Hospital's diabetes education classes will begin Wednesday, April 6, from 2 p.m. until 4 p.m. in the hospital's board room.

The program's purpose is to educate diabetics about proper nutrition, exercise, eye care and foot care associated with the disease. Classes also will focus on the stress and com-

plications associated with diabetes.

Registered nurses from The Brunswick Hospital will teach the classes, which will continue for six weeks. The classes are free and open to all diabetics and family members involved in their care.

Program participants also will be

invited to join the Diabetes Support Group which meets the first Monday of each month at 7 p.m. in the hospital's conference room.

For more information or to make reservations, contact Sherry Hendricksen or Patricia Nutter at The Brunswick Hospital, 754-8121.

MAR., 1994

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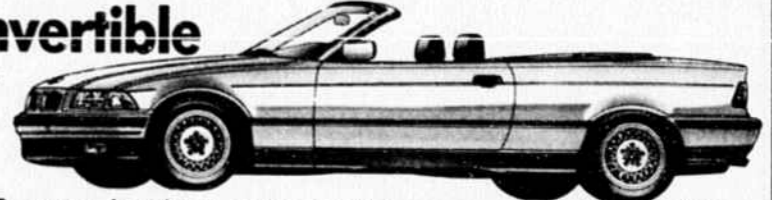


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