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Students warn peers of abuse

By Susan M. Hill

"I've been straight for three years," said Rick [REDACTED], a senior at Milford High School.

Being straight or on the wagon are topical terms heard from recovering alcoholics. Most people think of alcoholics as adult men and women, but [REDACTED] is among the growing number of teen-ager alcohol or drug abusers.

[REDACTED] said he has been lucky he discovered his addiction early and has been through a drug rehabilitation program, Straight.

[REDACTED] and 12 other Milford High School students involved in SADD, (Students Against Drunk Drivers) student

Continued on Page 2

Students warn peers of abuse

Continued from Page One
council, and the drama club
were at Milford Main Middle
School March 23 to promote
avoiding drugs and alcohol.

Tim Cleim, Mark
Covert, Rich Shepherd, Scott
Alexander, Brian Crowe,
Rachelle Rapp, Rhonda Kidd,
Scott Forste, Sheryl Hunt,
Missy Hellyer, Pam Duecker
and Corrina Wickersham
advised the students to get
involved in activities, be
yourself, get involved in the

Just Say No club, get involved
in sports, respect others and
they will respect you, talk to
your friends and parents, and
do not get involved with drugs
and alcohol.

"I'm not going to lie to you.
Alcohol makes you feel good,"
Alexander said. "It's (drinking
alcohol) not worth it."

Saying no to friends is hard,
he said. Friends will say,
"Alcohol is not going to hurt.

Alcohol lets you hide behind
your problems. Alcohol doesn't
make the problems go away, it
highlights them. Alcohol causes
you to hit bottom."

It's hard when you're in high
school and everyone's drinking
to say no," Alexander said.
"Why start in the first place?
Alcohol puts your brain asleep
in stages. Alcohol is a drug
too."

The program consisted of
lectures, skits, and a panel
explaining the effects of alcohol
and drugs.

The Milford School District
has drug and alcohol programs
on all levels.

Milford Main Middle School
started the Just Say No
program last August. The Main
School students approached the
Citizen Advisory Board about
starting the program, which
now has about 310 students
involved. Just Say No prepares
students to deal with being
offered drugs and alcohol, and
is a preliminary program for
SADD, students against drunk
drivers, in the Milford junior
high and high schools.

SADD tries to have activities
such as dances to promote a
drug-free school. The students
at the presentation said they try
to encourage students not
active in school programs to get
to join SADD. SADD not only
promotes not drinking and
driving, but promotes avoiding
drugs and alcohol all together.

The adults program, Citizens
Against Substance Abuse, is
now writing letters to send out
to local restaurants, bars,
limousine companies and hotels
to ask that they do not serve
alcohol to teenagers during
prom night.