A "Friday Feature" on the Mock Crash
By Mr. Josh Vick

Last Friday, Students Against Destructive Decisions hosted a Mock Crash. With prom just on the horizon, the objective was to remind students to make wise decisions. With the help of local emergency responders, the mock crash simulated the damage that can occur when students make poor choices.

As students and faculty walked up to the scene, they saw two vehicles tangled in a head on collision. One of the passengers - performed by CS's own Brooke Mleczewski - had been thrown from the vehicle and was lying face down on the concrete. The drivers of both vehicles plus another passenger were all in terrible danger and in desperate need of emergency assistance.

The audience then listened to a recording of a witness describing the scene to emergency responders. The stress and anxiety in the caller's voice was visceral and raw, complementing the terrible sights. The time that elapsed between the call and the first response was only five to ten minutes, but it felt like an eternity to those on the scene. It was a reminder to everyone that every second counts and that help arrives as fast as it can.

Next, an officer checked the vital signs of each student, while other emergency crews began to pour in. The local emergency crews were sincere and precise, giving onlookers a vivid opportunity to envision what an actual crash like this might look like. One driver - played by junior Nicolas Scherer - was helped from the crash immediately and taken to an ambulance on a stretcher. The passenger who had been thrown from the vehicle was pronounced dead on the scene, and a sheet was placed over her. Even though onlookers knew she was only pretending, it was not easy to see her covered with that sheet.

The other driver, played by Simon Swager, was determined to be impaired, and was ordered to undertake field sobriety tests. After examining him, an officer on scene determined he was impaired and placed him under arrest in her squad car. It was a reminder that there are lawful consequences for drinking and driving in addition to the mortal dangers that were already apparent.

While Simon was being tested for impairment, the final passenger on the scene - Peyton Nabozny - had to be rescued using the Jaws of Life. The audience was able to see how the device worked and see Peyton

rescued from the wreckage. Shortly after, a helicopter landed on the nearby football practice field. Peyton was promptly but gently placed on a stretcher and wheeled over to the helicopter for emergency assistance.

The mock crash was a powerful and shocking lesson on the importance of making wise decisions. Nights like prom should be filled with happy memories rather than tragic ones. The student actors, their peers who orchestrated the mock crash, and all the first responders who participated in the event did a wonderful job delivering their valuable message. It was an experience CS students and staff are sure to never forget.