

House trashing.

Parents videotape destruction caused by teens

WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP (AP) — When Michael Massey and his wife were called home from a weekend out-of-state trip, they found the house that they had entrusted to their 16-year-old daughter nearly wrecked.

A teen-age party had gotten out of hand to the tune of \$20,000 in damage.

Holes were punched in walls of the four-bedroom Colonial, doors kicked in, shaving cream and grease smeared about, toilets destroyed, and the contents of the refrigerator, pantry and cupboard dumped out and smashed on the kitchen floor.

Massey said yesterday that he was dazed when he arrived home last month and witnessed the damage, immediately calling a neighbor who has a video camera. He recorded the destruction and has produced a 20-minute tape he also narrates.

The tape was shown to more than 500 parents and teen-agers last week and is available to other groups to

show the danger of drinking and irresponsible teen-age behavior.

"I went upstairs, and it brought tears to my eyes," Massey recalled his homecoming. "To see what some kids could do to my house, just because they wanted to have some fun."

The Masseys showed the videotape at a meeting of the Parent Teacher Teen Organization, a group formed to improve the communication between the generations, said Linda Carey, a co-president of the group.

The meeting Tuesday was to be about drug abuse, with presentations from the local police and Morris County Prosecutor's Office, but the tape took center stage, she said.

The video showed broken paintings, blinds twisted and covered with grease, wooden paneling ruined by shaving cream, a mix of eggs, spaghetti, tomatoes and fish sticks thrown at walls, legs broken from tables, and 10 trash bags filled with beer cans and

whiskey and tequilla bottles. Curses were written on mirrors in lipstick and soap powder was spilled all over the house.

Massey's showing of the videotape benefited the community, said Mrs. Carey.

"These types of parties have happened in past years, but usually if a person's home is messed up they don't tell anyone, they don't press charges and that's a shame, because there are no consequences for the kids," she said.

By the time police were called to the scene by friends whose children left the party after the rampage began, most of the offenders had left, Massey said.

But police have since interviewed 30 of the teen-agers who were at the party and charged two juveniles and two 18-year-olds, who are being treated as adults, said Detective Lester

Brader on Friday.

Massey said he has made copies of the video that he is making them available to parent groups.

"Unless you see it, you can't believe what happens when someone goes through and trashes a house," he said. "I want people to see that and maybe spark some awareness that alcohol abuse among teens has gotten out of hand."

The party began after Massey's daughter Lisa invited a few friends home from a basketball game, he said. The invites apparently told others and strangers began arriving until as many as 70 teen-agers were in the house.

Massey said his daughter, through apparent peer pressure, did not call for help after the rampage began.

"I am very disappointed," he said. "Disappointed and very frightened. If you saw this place, you'd know that the potential for someone getting seriously injured was so close."