



Special to The Dispatch

Cast members sing "Perfect Young Ladies" in "The Boyfriend," opening Friday in Gilroy.

## *The show goes on*

*South Valley's upcoming production of teen musical dedicated to memory of fellow thespian Josh Brawn*

GILROY — The cast and crew of South Valley Civic Theater's upcoming production of "The Boyfriend" are into last few days of rehearsal before the curtain goes up at 8 p.m. Friday at Gilroy High School Theater.

Producers Grace and Russ Brawn are checking daily with staff members on the myriad of projects that must be coordinated to bring the show together by opening night.

Director Carol Harris said she will be working with all 50 teen-age cast members at rehearsals every night, "polishing the show."

"By now everyone knows their part, and things are going smoothly, but during this final week special touches will be added — to the characters, the costumes, the set — things that make the show really sparkle," she said.

Choreographer Toni Saletta is watching the ensemble of dancers

very closely, and practicing with the young couples who are featured in several energetic dance numbers. While some members of the cast were accomplished dancers before being cast in the show, many have learned new dance steps and rhythms, Saletta noted.

Off stage, the costumers are sewing detailed period costumes for the play, which is set in the 1920s. Scenes include a masquerade ball and a beach scene with the cast in old-fashioned bathing attire.

Extra attention has been paid by cast and crew during this production for a special reason, according to Harris. The show will be performed in memory of Josh Brawn, who was killed in a car accident during the second week of rehearsal.

Brawn, who had a feature role in "The Boyfriend," was very active in community theater, includ-

ing many plays with this cast of teens, Harris said. In response to the tragic death of their friend and fellow thespian, the cast, crew and staff met and decided that "the show must go on" and that it would be dedicated to the memory of a dear friend and talented young man, she said.

South Valley Civic Theater will donate the proceeds from the six performances of the show to the Joshua Grant Brawn Memorial Scholarship Fund, a perpetual fund for South Valley students continuing their education in the fine arts.

"The Boy Friend" may be seen at Gilroy High School on February 26, 27, March 4, 5, 10 and 11. Curtain time is 8 p.m. Tickets are \$5 for adults, \$3.50 for students and seniors. Reservations are recommended. For information or tickets, call the theater box office at 842-SHOW.