

DEAD

(Distractions, Eating, And Driving)

DEAD. No longer living on this earth. DEAD. No more dreams to strive for. DEAD. No more memories of spending time with friends and family- those that love and care about you the most. Why? All it took was you texting a message to your best friend, drinking the last sip from your beer bottle, or eating a bite of your subway sandwich. According to the Cohen Children's Medical Center study, more than 3,000 teens die each year in crashes caused by texting while driving. Also, approximately 2,700 teens are killed in drunken driving accidents ("Texting while driving now leading"). According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, more than 8 people die in a distracted driving incident like eating while driving ("Distracted Driving"). These numbers are astonishing; yet people still drink, eat, and text while driving.

Buddy Beerale, 18 years old; was a high school senior at Borneo High School. He was the starting quarterback for the Borneo Bulls who had a perfect season. Once again, Buddy led his team to win the state championship game against the strong Stein Steelers. After the game was over, Buddy wanted to celebrate this major accomplishment of his football career. So, he drank a full can of Bud Light beer and eventually became drunk. Then, Buddy got into his small red Toyota Camry to drive home to his parents. As, he was driving; his vision become blurry and he started to become tired or drowsy. The small red Toyota Camry that his parents bought for him as a birthday present was swerving on and off the solid yellow line of the road. At this same time, a pregnant woman was driving to the hospital to give birth. Unfortunately, Buddy wasn't paying attention to the road and he hit the car of the pregnant woman. Both cars went off the road where this pregnant woman and Buddy both perished. His parents grieved over his death and they held a ceremony for the pregnant woman who lost her life too. Buddy was going to play professional football for the New England Patriots next fall. However, a bad decision in a matter

of seconds costed him his life. The fond memories his family once had of him are clouded over by this awful accident.

Tiffany Textworth, 17 years old; was also a high school senior at Borneo High School. She was the valedictorian of her senior class; had a 4.0 GPA all throughout high school. She was so smart that she got accepted to Yale to major in Environmental Studies. Tiffany was the leader of her cheerleader squad. She encouraged and motivated those around her to reach their potential and most importantly have fun. This form of leadership helped her cheerleader squad to have the chance to perform at the Bangor Cross Insurance Center for the big basketball tournament. Tiffany was also very involved in her community; visiting the nursing homes every weekend, helping at the Bangor Humane Society, and spending some time with homeless people. Tiffany was well-liked by her teachers and classmates because she was very friendly of those around her. By her senior year, her parents were so proud of her academics that they rewarded her with a cell-phone. She never had a cell-phone before, but her parents thought that she could handle the responsibility of using it only for emergencies. However, Tiffany got addicted to her cell-phone; texting her friends everyday during school and at home. Her senior year was almost done, but she still had prom to go to with all her friends. She enjoyed her prom and was ready to go back home. When she was driving home, she got a text from her best friend, Heather. She started texting to Heather, but she wasn't paying attention to the road. Tiffany drove right into a tree, killing her instantly. Everyone was devastated because she meant so much to everyone. Her younger sister was so sad that she dropped out of school and became addicted to drugs. Tiffany was destined for greatness, but her decision to answer a text, "Did you have a fun time?" ultimately ended her aspirations of life.

Eddy Eatington, 15 years old; was a high school sophomore at Borneo High School. He was known for his big appetite when it comes to food. Eddy was always hungry and loved to eat. He won the MVP for the Borneo Bulls baseball team. He was a high honors student; always working hard to improve his knowledge of the world he lives in. Most of his teachers compared him to Albert Einstein for his intelligence and ability to innovate new ways of learning. Eddy was involved in his community by feeding the homeless every week. Tears of joy are brought to his face when he realizes that he made a difference in these people's life's. He eventually got his license and decided that he would visit a friend, but first he wanted to get a sandwich at Subway. Eddy was eating his sandwich as he was driving to his friend's house. However, he was too busy eating his sandwich to see the deer a mile ahead. The deer hit his car and Eddy died immediately after. Eddy's friends and teachers mourned his death and they all wondered why he risked his life.

Borneo High School took a big hit this year when these three students died. They were all great human beings who would have a great future ahead in this world. However, their decision to drink or drive while being distracted costed them their lives. Their deaths brought sadness, guilt, and other bad things to those that loved and cared for them. Arrive Alive is a serious matter; drinking or being distracted while driving is very dangerous because it can hurt yourself and those around you. Make the right decision to Arrive Alive.

Sources for Statistics

- "Distracted Driving." *CDC*. U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, 7 Mar. 2016. Web. 28 Mar. 2016. <http://www.cdc.gov/motorvehiclesafety/distracted_driving/>.
- "Texting while driving now leading cause of US teen deaths." *Auto Safety*. TRW, 10 July 2013. Web. 28Mar. 2016. <<http://safety.trw.com/texting-while-driving-now-leading-cause-of-us-teen-deaths/0710/>>.