

Brian Norton

There are many dangers to drinking and driving. Some are much more obvious than others, and some dangers one may not initially think about at all. If someone decided to drink and drive, he is not only putting others in danger, but that person is putting him or herself in danger as well. If one was to do drugs, he would only put himself or herself in danger, that is, unless that individual felt the need to operate a vehicle, that person has then created an uncontrollable metal beast, as well as a projectile. There is another effect from drinking and driving that people often do not realize, and that is the family of the victim. In my drivers education course, a nice older lady came into our class, and she spoke to us of her losses due to others drinking and driving. She lost not only her father, but her brother as well, in a duration of about 6 months. As I sat in my chair, I could not help but to think of what I could do if that had happened to me. She seemed to be handling her loss so well, but near the end I happened to notice her choking up, and beginning to tear. I felt that the man responsible for her pain should have gotten a much worse punishment than he did. I do not recall exactly what he had received, but I was angered by meager sentence. This may just happen to be one of the worse things a parent or loved one may have to go through. Burying a loved one, and watching the man who committed the atrocity think of it as no big deal, and get one to two years of prison. I believe that the Matthew Kato Memorial Scholarship will help many, even if they do not apply, to become aware and understand the dangers of drinking or doing drugs, and getting behind the wheel.