

"Human history becomes more and more a race between education and catastrophe" -H. G. Wells. Education is an act of processing information. Catastrophe, a great sudden calamity. Key word: calamity. An event that brings terrible loss. I know I can speak for all when I say what had happened over the past school year was a terrible loss indeed. Losing not only a son and brother, but a friend as well.

There are so many things that need to be taken care of in this world. I know this has been said before but this world is cruel and unfair, and when a seventeen year old senior is killed because someone couldn't realize what they were doing was a dangerous and selfish crime, well this makes me believe that this world is so full of hate. And I can't stand the fact that people can only look out for themselves. I understand you yourself know who you are better than anyone, but when you're taking someone else's life into your hands and endangering them, I can't help but have this strong feeling of anger and pity at the same time.

We can't solve the big problems unless we get to the root of the problem. If history is a competition between education and catastrophe we have to be doing something wrong. Yes that means there is a lot of education, and that I believe is a thing, but where there is education follows misfortune. To educate and make aware the dangers of what would and can happen from driving under the influence of any substance that can impair your mind would help make people really aware of what can happen. Sharing stories of real life accidents touch your heart that much more. I know that teenagers are going to do stupid things regardless of what consequences follow, that's because we think we're invincible of the world. We are too stubborn to realize we are all at the risk of being in harms way. We need to be pushed to realize that it's not a joke. That life works in ways we can't control.

This incident in particular really gave me a different outlook on what it's like to go drink at parties. I didn't know Matt as well as other did, and I would feel wrong in a way to get emotional but it's just too hard to sit back and watch people make stupid decisions. I made a promise to myself that I would always DD for anyone who needed it. I've had calls day and night asking for rides because people know I will always be there and I know I will always be there. For some reason it just really hit me that I could lose anyone of my really close friends and I wouldn't be able to live with myself knowing I could have done something to prevent it all from happening.

Driving while being influenced .by drugs or alcohol to me is a premeditated crime. The individual who is taking in the substance knows what the substance will do to them. They know that it impairs your mind as a whole. And when they continue to do so they are taking the risk of killing someone. When you know you are taking a risk you should be prepared for all consequences. When you kill someone you

shouldn't have a lawyer trying to help defend you or get a lesser charge. Life is not cheap, and by trying to get yourself out of trouble for killing someone, well this makes you look selfish. Like you don't care about anyone but yourself. And that's true, these people don't care because "Oh, I do this all the time and haven't hurt anyone" or "I drive better when I'm stoned or drunk." When you're not at the right state of mind you are not more aware of what is going on around you. Perhaps certain things make the part of your brain that helps you focus, focus more. But what happens to the other parts of your brain like reflex or making choices?

Those who chose to do this aren't taking into consideration the family they could be hurting by killing someone. They just don't realize how much of an effect that it really has on a family as a whole unit. I couldn't begin to imagine the loss of a family member due to an alcohol or drug related crash. It's too much to handle and I couldn't help but think to myself how badly I would wish it was me instead.

How do you stop someone from making a stupid choice? You make harsher consequences. I'm not to sure what happens after your first DWI or DUI but obviously it isn't enough. First ticket should be a fine and rehab. It's so important to get people help if they are out driving drunk. It could even be the first time but how do you just let one first timer slide? That's letting someone have the power to go out there and damage anything. We need to stop the crime at the root of when it's happening. If we don't were giving too many people leeway. Also, the bar that these drivers are coming from should know that these people are incapable of driving. There should be a limit of how many alcoholic beverages someone can have at a restaurant.

And when they leave there should be a chart, provided by the government, that records all of the alcoholic beverages are consumed by that one individual.

We can't think of what happened to Matt as an ending, but think of it as a new beginning. That sounds hard to accept in a way because it's so hard to let go of someone you love and care about. In a way Matt is doing us a favor. We have to look at this and ask ourselves "how much do I love myself?" This is an opportunity for all of us to step back and take a look around us and see what we can do as an individual to help out in the community. Help support and stop DWI and DUI drivers.