

Reckless Ringtones

By: Abby Riggio

“It’s not my fault,” I think as the car spins of the road. A car that was filled with laughter and music is now deafeningly silent as everyone gasps with horror. It’s dark, the only light coming from the headlights, the dashboard, or me. I am just a piece of manmade glass and metal, a phone no bigger than a person’s hand, but I cause accidents daily.

The road is wet with rain and the car is hurling towards the opposite side of the road. I see a car speeding towards us. I know we will collide. I can survive this, but no one else can. I’m a pocket computer, a phone too smart and too distracting. The cars slam into one another faster than anyone can take a breath. I’m fine, maybe a shattered screen, but no one else is ok.

I’m on the ground next to the hand that usually holds me, but something is different. It’s lifeless. I dinged twice, my screen lit up and she could not fight the urge to check me. We were only five minutes from home. No matter where she is, if I make a noise she jumps excitedly and looks as soon as she can. Ringtones are reckless distractions. Who knew that a simple ding like the sound of a doorbell, could take the lives of so many people. I can send messages at any time of the day, but she chose to while driving.

Texting while driving kills. Mothers and fathers lose their children. Children lose their parents. They were young, excited for their future of college, family, and their magical fantasy weddings. I stay, laying on her bed as her tearful family dressed in black, leaves for her funeral. Her mother should be trying on “mother of the bride” dresses, not dresses as black as the night sky. The apple logo on my back, my screen, my information, the text she began to type the night of the accident is all there, but she is not.

Life is fragile, more fragile than a phone’s glass screen. One mistake can take your life, your friends or families lives, and even complete strangers’ lives. Your family and friends can afford to wait for a text back, but you can’t afford to text while driving. Texting can wait, your safety and life cannot.