

Do you think it is ok to text while driving?

(Introducing the 4-way test to every day events)

Just last night while having fun with my friends, I sat there in the passenger seat having fun and enjoying the night's adventures. At one point my friend who was driving started to drift ever so slightly off the road, then back only to drift off again. Now if I were a police officer I would immediately assume the driver had been drinking, but instead he was merely texting while driving.

Now the question that is raised when I apply the 4-way test is, whether it is the truth or not? To be honest, the truth is that texting while driving is slowly becoming one of the most deadly causes of teen driving accidents in the world. It is also true that it is very much a part of my life, a part that could be stopped and be gone forever.

As I keep following the 4-way test that I have learned from my Rotary experiences it asks if it is fair to all concerned. The answer is no, and by a long shot. It is not fair to the driver who is texting as he has loved ones. His family would not enjoy getting a call at any time of the day telling them that their son was in a disastrous accident while he was texting his friend a message that could have otherwise waited until he was no longer behind the drivers wheel. It is also unfair to the passengers who are having their lives put in danger due to the driver's mistake. There could also be innocent pedestrians on the sidewalk that just happen to be at the wrong spot when the driver skips over the curb.

Next stop on the 4-way test is if it will build goodwill and better friendships. Although at the time the driver may think he is building

friendships with the people he is texting, he is not. In fact if the passengers are upset by the fact that the driver has no regard for them, it may even ruin their friendship.

The last stop on the 4-way test is if it will be beneficial to all concerned. The answer is no, it is not beneficial to anyone including yourself which makes one want to ask the question, "What were you thinking?" The answer is most likely that he wasn't thinking, about his family, about his friends, or about any human being that he endangered.

Throughout my high school life I have seen many car accidents as a result of texting while driving in places that affect me every day, such as the school parking lot, my drive to work after school, and even just cruising Main Street in this small North Dakota town. It is a problem that with new technology is becoming worse with each new I-phone or smart phone that people become entranced with while at the steering wheel. I hope I have shown that events that happen in even a high school kid's life like mine can be answered by applying the four-way test to the question at hand.