



DEADLY DISTRACTIONS

By: *Haley Bussell, Kristin Jarvis, Gabrielle Morgan, and Madeline Zamarron*

In this magazine we will grasp an understanding on the importance of knowing that distracted driving is a risk not worth taking.

THE UNDESIRABLE CONSEQUENCES

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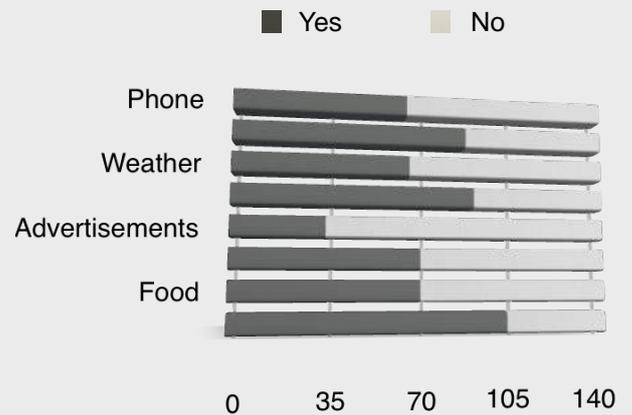
The absent-minded decision... to focus on anything other than the road while driving could be the possible distinction between a fatal crash and the preservation of the life of a person and one's passengers. Whether it be the inadequacy of knowing and informing oneself of the possible results of driving while being in the state of distraction, or the lack of actual enforcement made to prevent the act as whole, the amount of injuries and deaths caused by distracted driving is at an all time high, and most prominently in the nation's teen drivers. With the amount of media, technology, and advertising being produced at rapid rate/pace, the urge to read the text message, type the tweet, and read the advertisement is continuously being brought onto the road, creating nothing but tragic headlines.

Recently gathered by a group of one hundred and thirty seven high school students and teen drivers ranging from the ages of fifteen to eighteen years old was the shocking fifty percent at which claimed to cellphone use while behind the wheel and the forty five percent who confessed that the cellphone was a distraction. Next to the phone was the inevitable sixty one percent who admitted that music itself was a mild distraction. Knowing that a teen drivers use of media and technology is causing accidents in itself, the driver still deals with the un-

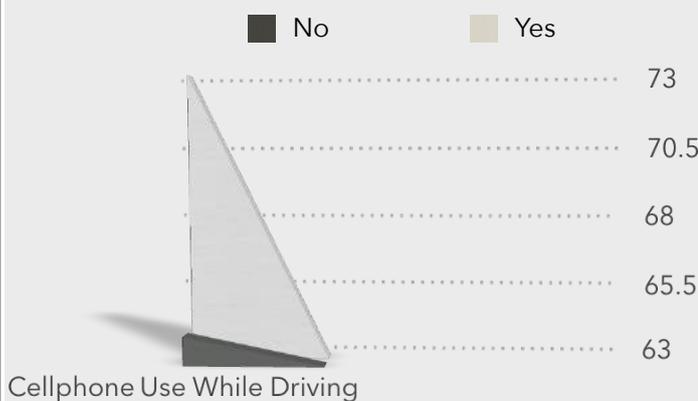
avoidable distractions starting from surroundings listing all the way to a person's own thoughts. It is then

that one must question what is being done to tackle the issue that, stated on the michigan.gov website that "according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration and Virginia Tech Transportation Institute, is the leading factor in most crashes and near-crashes"? For in no state does it even ban the simple but deadly use of cellphones as a whole, this being one of the leading distractions in the nation. Where is line drawn, and where are lives saved?

A SURVEY MADE WITH 137 HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS
THE QUESTION ASKED WAS: WHAT DISTRACTS YOU MOST WHEN DRIVING?



DO YOU USE YOUR CELLPHONE WHILE DRIVING?



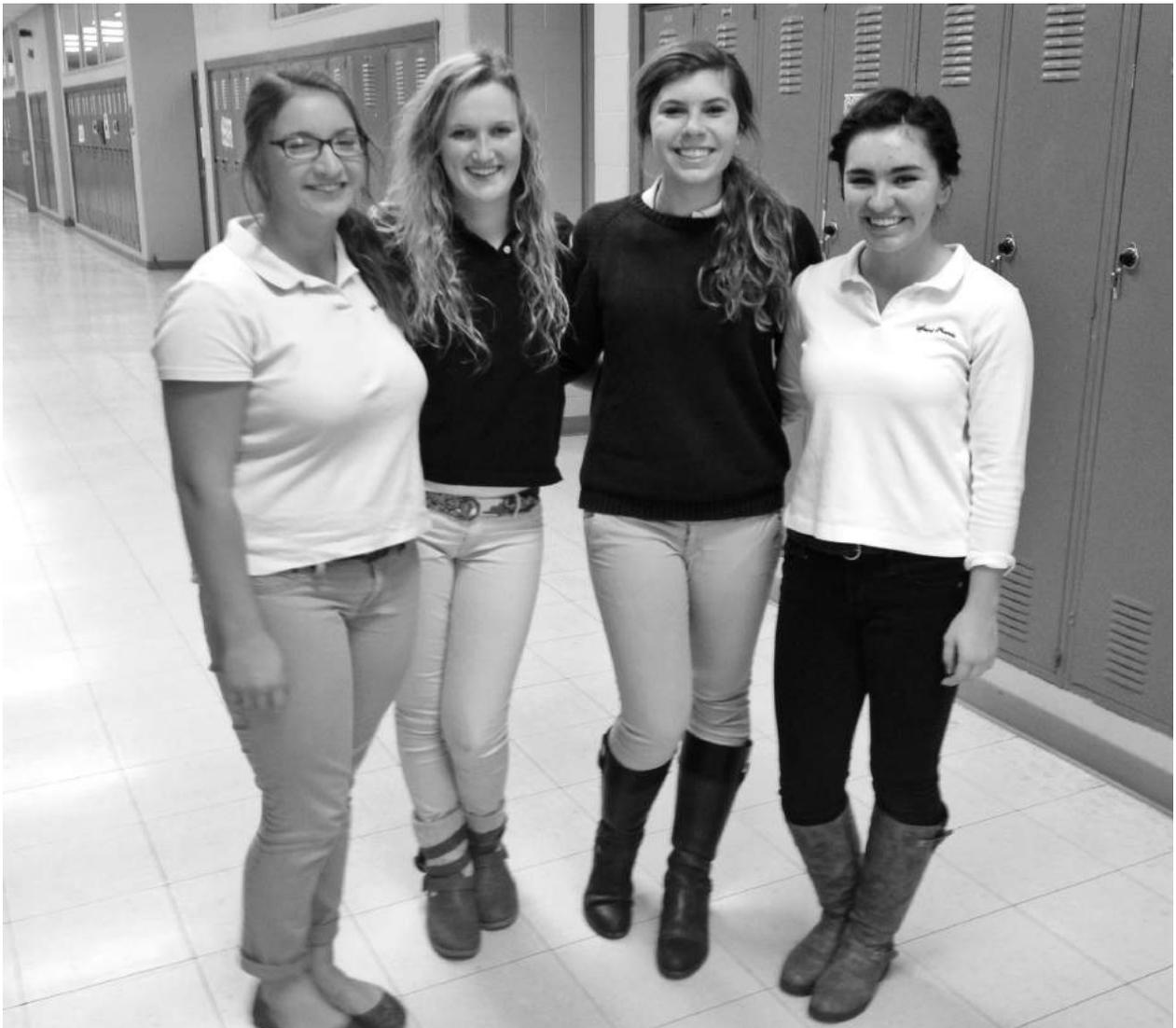
Cellphone Use While Driving

In order to resolve a problem, there must be a want and an effort to do so. There must be a desire in all drivers to prevent distracted driving crashes by deciding to inform themselves on the more than possible consequences of distracted driving, and then by making a choice to stay attentive on the road, and by doing so not only saving other drivers and passengers, but themselves. Know when the wheel comes first, for the sake of safety.

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The team picture



From left to right: Gabrielle Morgan, Kristin Jarvis, Haley Bussell, and Madeline Zammeron