



## Drugs and Alcohol: The Story of Donny

By Lexxis Terry

**H**E WAS six feet tall, plus seven inches. He had to duck through almost every doorway. His life quote was “By the Moment.” Everything he ever did was by the moment—whether it was going fishing, heading to Boise or Twin Falls for the day, or visiting Filer for the county fair. Anyone who was with him would run amok and have the best adventures. There was never a dull moment when it came to being around Donny.

Last year, about the time of Spring Break, Donny passed away. The death was alcohol-related and everyone who knew the young man was in total shock. The loss of our friend was so unexpected that nobody who knew him would have guessed he would be the next to go. Donny was a free-spirited person with a bright future ahead of him. Being able to support himself and his loved ones was a top prior-

ity for Donny. Even though Donny strived to be the best for his family, nothing trumped the love he had for his vehicles. Anything you needed to know about a car, Donny could tell you. He was also very selfless. Even though his cars were his babies, he would lend them out to any one of his friends in need and would never expect anything in return. However, the love Donny had for his car was ironic on the night he decided to drive home.

All that day Donny and his girlfriend had been having disagreements and he felt that he needed to be home with her and make things right. He had been involving himself in situations with alcohol all night, and when Donny drank he tended to become very weary and tired. When he decided that he was going to drive home, Donny was put in the position

where he had to go from Burley to Boise. When Donny reached Mountain Home, he couldn't keep his eyes on the road. He began swerving and eventually totaled his truck and everyone inside: him. A few of his family friends, who had also been driving home, found the accident and the news was received early the next morning.

That night, Donny had finally thought about the end results. He thought about his future. Specifically, his future wife and their lives together. I know Donny loved his fiancée and wanted to make things right. But in my opinion, he should have stayed where he was for the remainder of the night. I feel that if he would have decided to stay in Burley he would still be with us today. However, we cannot take it back now and I wish that wasn't the case. If Donny hadn't mixed his emotions, alcohol, and drinking that night things could be very different.

You never know when you are going to get hurt; you never know when you are going to get into an accident; you never know when you are going to have your own life taken. It is so important to think ahead, especially if you are planning to involve yourself in drug or alcohol use. In school we are taught to refrain from putting ourselves in situations with drugs or alcohol. We are taught these ideas in order to prevent us from being physically and/or emotionally hurt. We are also taught these actions to prevent us from getting in a vehicle or even behind the wheel while intoxicated. We are taught to be safe and responsible so we don't lose our friends or family members like Donny. ☹️

### ALERT SCHOLARSHIP

Lexxis Terry attended Twin Falls High School in Twin Falls, ID. *Alert Magazine* congratulates her for winning the Alert Scholarship and we encourage her in the pursuit of her academic goals. We would also like to encourage future seniors to participate in our scholarship program.