

SAMPLE
PRESS CONFERENCE PACKET

MADD HISTORY



Cari Lightner

In May 1980, Cari Lightner, age 13, of Fair Oaks, Ca., was struck down and killed by a hit and run drunk driver. She was walking in a bicycle lane near her home with her friend. The driver who killed Cari had been out of jail on bail for ONLY TWO DAYS for ANOTHER HIT AND RUN DRUNK DRIVING CRASH. He also had three prior drunk driving arrests. On Nov. 25, 1980, Clarence W. Busch, age 47, the man who killed Cari was sentenced to two years in prison. However, he never went to prison. Instead he went to a work camp and then a halfway house, with an automatic 1/3 time off for good behavior. He was released September 7, 1981. Busch was notified by the Department of Motor Vehicles that he would be eligible to receive his drivers license upon release once he showed proof of insurance. Busch did not receive the maximum sentence because his "alcoholism" was considered to be a mitigating factor, outweighing the fact that he killed a little girl.

Cari's death was no accident, IT WAS A CRIME!! A crime that is neglected by the system. That is why M.A.D.D. was formed.

M.A.D.D. is an organization of victims, survivors and concerned citizens determined to reduce deaths and injuries resulting from driving under the influence. Mothers Against Drunk Drivers encompasses all types of people: young, old, male, female, mothers, fathers, sisters, brothers, any citizen concerned with the problems of driving under the influence.

THE GOALS OF M.A.D.D. are to reduce the deaths and injuries caused by drunk drivers and To provide support and services to the victims of drunk drivers.

THE OBJECTIVES OF M.A.D.D. ARE TO:

- Force Effective Reform Of The Drunk Driving Problem.
- Be The Voice Of The Victim.
- Increase Public Awareness To The Seriousness of Driving Under The Influence.
- Teach Communities How They Can Become Involved in The Fight Against Drunk Driver
- Establish Chapters Nationwide.
- Establish Court Monitoring Programs in Each Community.

THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF M.A.D.D. Since May 1980, M.A.D.D. has been able to:

1. Initiate the development of Governor's State Task Forces in a number of states.
2. Initiate efforts which resulted in county task forces in many counties nationwide.
3. Establish M.A.D.D. Chapters across the nation.
4. Initiate and support major legislation to reform laws on drunk driving at the federal and state level.
5. Change attitudes of judges and district attorneys toward the crimes of drunk driving.
6. Support the programs of the Highway Patrol.
7. M.A.D.D. is responsible for the passage of new laws by the California Legislature establishing stiffer mandatory minimum penalties for conviction of DUI.

MEMBERSHIP - As a member you will be entitled to any and all services M.A.D.D. has to offer including: newsletters, current legislation and drunk driving information.

____ \$10.00 Individual Memb. ____ \$25.00 Family Memb. ____ \$100.00 or more (Organization Affiliate)

____ I would like to make a contribution of \$ ____ in support of your organization.

____ I would like to volunteer my time, please call.

____ I am a victim.

____ I am a concerned citizen.

NAME _____ PHONE NO. () _____

ADDRESS _____ CITY AND STATE _____

ZIP CODE _____

PLEASE SEND TO: M.A.D.D., 5330 Primrose Ave.-Suite 146, Fair Oaks, California 95628
(916) 966-MADD

M.A.D.D. IS A TAX-EXEMPT, NON-PROFIT CORPORATION.

MADD

MOTHERS AGAINST DRUNK DRIVERS

SPRING 1982

NATIONAL NEWSLETTER



Candy Lightner meets with Congressman Matsui (D-CA) at a press conference to urge Blue Ribbon Commission.

BLUE RIBBON COMMISSION

On October 1, 1980 and on March 9, 1981 MADD spoke at a national press conference supporting legislation introduced by Congressman Matsui (D-CA) and Congressman Barnes (D-MD), mandating tougher penalties for the drunk driver. On those occasions MADD called on President Reagan to form a Blue Ribbon Commission that will bring together qualified persons to develop solutions to help reduce death and injuries on our highways caused by the impaired driver.

Congress has since taken up our call to form the Blue Ribbon Commission with the leadership of Congressman Barnes (D-MD). Congressman Hansen (R-UT) delivered a letter to the president with over 300 signatures of congressman and senators.

We have since heard that the president will appoint this commission in the near future. We would like to thank those members of Congress who endorsed this vitally needed commission.

However, seeing is believing; until the Blue Ribbon Commission is announced and formed, we are urging you to continue your letter-writing campaign and your petition drive. Please continue to send petitions to headquarters.

MADD Is The Voice Of The Victim

We are continually working with victims in our Victim Assistance Program, taking them step by step through the court process.

Case #1 — In the September issue of our newsletter, we reported on a case in which two young boys were killed by a drunk driver in October 1980. Our involvement at that time resulted in a new prosecuting attorney and no plea bargaining. The defendant pleaded guilty to all charges.

On December 8th the drunk driver was sentenced, by Judge Barnet M. Cooperman in Van Nuys Superior Court, to three years and eight months in the California Youth Authority. Judge Cooperman lectured to the defendant for a full half-hour about the horrendous tragedy the defendant had caused to the two victims' families. We wish more judges would take this crime as seriously as Judge Cooperman.

Case #2 — In our September newsletter we presented details of a drunk-driving crash in which eight people were tragically killed and a ninth person crippled for life by a repeat offender drunk driver. We mentioned our involvement and on May 28, 1981 Marty Azcarate was found guilty of eight counts of vehicular manslaughter, felony hit and run, felony drunk driving, driving with a suspended license and speeding. On August 7, 1981 he received maximum sentence of nine years and four months but, because of state law, the length of time he can actually spend in prison is six years. With credit for time served, one-third time off for worktime and good behavior, his release date is January 1984.

Case #3 — His blood alcohol content was .03, not high enough to be considered legally intoxicated. His blood drug content was 4.13 (mandrix). Mr. Talluto was driving at a high rate of speed with no lights when his car struck the rear of the Cazares' family car.

According to police, 7-year-old Fabian Cazares died instantly of massive head and chest injuries. He was thrown from the back seat of the car when it was hurled into a drainage ditch. The car landed upside down on top of him.

Houston MADD members wrote the judge urging strict punishment. Members called the district attorney's office to express concern. The family and other MADD members were at the trial to hear 21-year-old Mr. Talluto sentenced to seven years in jail.

(continued on page 2)

The BARE Facts

Mothers Against Drunk Drivers has been working hard in our communities to ensure public safety on this nation's highways. Our record speaks for itself. Our accomplishments are many. We have come a long way in a year and a half, but we have a long way to go. So that we may continue to be effective, we need your continuing help and support.

All of our chapters, including national headquarters, are in desperate need of office equipment such as typewriters, word processors, copy machines, and computers. Our chapters are also in need of office space, supplies and volunteers. Perhaps you know of a business or corporation that would like to donate or underwrite some of these items. Because of the importance and immediacy of the drunk-driving issue, we have not had the time to raise the funds necessary. In most cases, money comes out of our representatives' pockets to pay for printing, postage, travel and phone.

Either contact us here at headquarters or your local chapter if you can be of any assistance. PLEASE, WON'T YOU HELP US TO CONTINUE HELPING YOU.

ARE YOU HER PARENTS?

I have a problem with my parents. They are alcoholics and I have tried to get them to quit drinking before they get killed or kill someone else. They have a lot of wrecks. They had a wreck when I was six weeks old. We were lucky: Daddy broke his arm and Mama went through the windshield. All I got was a little scratch because it threw me underneath the dash. I am married now and live in an area away from my parents. I have begged them to quit drinking, but nothing I do seems to do any good. They just say, "I can't". They stay drunk day and night, all the time. I know they are alcoholics, but what can I do? Please help! *Name and address withheld by request.*

MEDIA EVENTS

Thanks to America's responsive media, the tragedy of drunk driving is reaching thousands of people every day. We would like to share with you some of the media events in which MADD has participated or will soon be featured.

Television Shows: Hour Magazine, Today Show, Phil Donahue, 20/20, NBC News Magazine, Quincy, Good Morning America, ABC Nightline, 60 Minutes; plus ABC, NBC, and CBS Network News.

Newspapers and Magazines: People, Ladies Home Journal, Readers Digest, Newsweek and Families Magazine. We will also be featured in the Wall Street Journal, New York Times Magazine, Redbook, Womens World and National Enquirer.

Each time our stories are told through the media, SOMEONE thinks twice about drinking and driving and a life is saved.



Susan LeBrun Administrative Assistant

Susan Le Brun became involved in May 1980 when Candy decided to investigate and fight the problem of drunk driving. She volunteered her time and money for over one year helping MADD grow from a local group to a national organization. Sue's job is to work closely with chapters by updating information, suggesting strategy such as county and state task forces and helping them establish our various programs. She also oversees the bookkeeping records and some of the administrative duties. Sue is also the Corporate Secretary. She has proven herself in times of crisis and assisted many victims in their time of grieving. Sue is a credit to this organization and we will always be thankful for her participation and assistance.

Community Support

We would not be able to continue our work without support from our communities. We are grateful to everyone who has contributed. We would especially like to thank:

- **The Moody Foundation** for a grant to establish an office in Houston, Texas which will assist in the formation of chapters in Texas.
- **The Health Forum** of Fresno, California for their generous donation to our Fresno Chapter of free office space, typing and telephone-answering services.
- **Preferred Risk Mutual Insurance Company** for donating funds for our brochures.
- **M.J. Brock & Sons** (Sacramento, CA), **CARLS KARCHER ENTERPRISES** (Anaheim, CA), **State Farm Insurance** (Sacramento, CA), **Soroptimist Club** (Elk Grove, CA), **Livingston Concrete Co.** (Sacramento, CA), **Alpha Theta Zeta** (Sacramento, CA).
- **Fred Howe and Home Stores** for donating office furniture.
- **American Post Box** of Los Angeles for contributing secretarial services to our Los Angeles chapter.
- Our sincere gratitude to **Kevin Culhane**, attorney at law, who has donated his time and services as corporate advisor.

MEMBERSHIP

Every new member strengthens MADD's voice in our efforts to solve the drunk-driving problem. Your dues support MADD's programs of Community Awareness, Victim Assistance and legal action (laws and legislation); and assist us in establishing chapters nationwide. Members are encouraged to be active in their nearest chapter's programs and to help in forming new chapters. Join MADD and let your voice be heard.

Our annual membership fees are \$10.00 per individual, \$25.00 per family and \$100.00 per organization. If you would like to be a member, contact your local chapter or headquarters and we will send you a brochure.

Special Recognition

A special thank you to these people for dedicating their time and energy to the drunk-driving problem for over a year. Their help has been instrumental in assisting the victims, educating the public and advocating tougher laws:

Ola Bressinger, Acton, California; **Tom & Dot Sexton**, Bowie, Maryland; **Janet Ames**, Fresno, California; **Patricia Owen**, Lincoln, California.

MADD Receives NHTSA Grant

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) has made a \$60,000 grant to MADD as part of its Innovative Projects Program. The purpose of the grant is to assist in the formation of at least 17 chapters nationwide and publish a Survivor's Rights Manual. Our sincere appreciation to the fine staff of NHTSA for their support.

CHAPTER HIGHLIGHTS

KENTUCKY

The **Louisville Chapter** was established by Lois Windhorst. This chapter is developing Court Monitoring and Victim Outreach Programs. On New Years Eve they set up a "MADD-CAB" Taxi Service. Lois has been appointed to the Enforcement Committee for the newly appointed County Task Force which was announced on February 11, 1982. The chapter is working with Governor John Brown, Jr. on new Kentucky legislation. On February 9, 1982 the Board of Alderman awarded the Louisville Chapter a Certificate of Merit. This resolution supported MADD and requested community support.

INDIANA

They held a press conference in January informing the public of their formation and calling upon the Governor to appoint a State Task Force. The chapter was founded by David and Vicki Heidenreich. This Indianapolis Chapter is the first chapter to organize in the state of Indiana.

FLORIDA

The **Central Florida Chapter's** founder, Mary Wiley, has been interviewed on many occasions by newspapers, community magazines, radio and T.V. They have had several meetings and Mary has participated in panel discussions on the drunk-driving issue. The Central Florida Chapter has over 300 members and held two fundraisers to help defray the costs of printing and postage.

OHIO

The **Columbus Chapter**, founded by Bob and Sandy Troutman, was instrumental in the establishment of a State Task Force appointed by the Governor in October 1981. Bob and Sandy are participating on a subcommittee called Alcohol and the Impaired Driver. The Task Force made its

recommendations to the Governor in February. They have also been active with the media; increasing public awareness about the drunk-driving issue. Congratulations to Bob and Sandy who are expecting a baby in March.

PENNSYLVANIA

The **Delaware Valley Chapter**, founded by Marie Tursi, was instrumental in the establishment of a State Task Force appointed by the Governor to solve the drunk-driving problem in Pennsylvania. Marie is an appointee to this task force. In November Marie testified at the congressional hearings held by Congressman Alan Ertel in Harrisburg. Members of the Delaware Valley Chapter have given many speeches to community groups and organizations.

TEXAS

Marinelle Timmons of the **Houston Chapter** was appointed to the Governor's Traffic Safety Task Force which held its first meeting in January. This chapter has developed Court Monitoring and Victim Outreach Programs and conducted a "free taxi" service on New Years Eve.

MARYLAND

The **Maryland Chapters** have helped establish six County Task Forces. They held their second annual Candlelight Vigil on the steps of the capitol on February 1. Over 300 victims and concerned citizens attended.

Prompted by MADD and other citizen advocates, a Governor's Task Force on the drinking driver has endorsed a new legislative package for 1982 that includes raising the legal drinking age to 21, increasing to six months the mandatory license suspension for refusal to take an alcohol breath test and transferring juvenile alcohol violations to the adult court.

The Maryland chapters are also developing the Victim Assistance and Court Monitoring Programs.

THE VICTIMS STORY

Our volume of mail averages between 100 and 300 letters a day. Many letters are from concerned citizens and professionals, but many are from victims such as Kim. We were so impressed with her courage and determination that we asked her if we could reprint excerpts of her letter. She graciously gave her permission.

"I am a victim of a drunk driver. On August 22, 1980 I was involved in a car accident in which a woman ran a red light and I hit her car. This woman and I were outside our cars discussing the accident when a drunk driver hit my car and, literally, crushed me between my car and the first car. My left leg was dislocated at the hip. My right leg was ripped open from the bottom of my calf to the top of my thigh. My right femur was broken and protruding. Also, my right leg was torn from just below the hip bone, down through the groin area and back up the other side, left hanging by approximately four inches of skin. My rear end was caught in the bumper of the car and torn off leaving my tailbone exposed. And last, but certainly not least, my pelvic bone was broken in 72 places. So far, I have spent 222 days in the hospital from this accident."

"At the time of the accident, I had been graduated from high school for 3 months. In high school I played softball, basketball, volleyball, ran track and was a cheerleader. Needless to say, I was a very athletic, active person. My hobbies were swimming, water skiing and dancing. The doctors have now told me I may NEVER do any of these things again. From being straight and in traction for 3 months my left leg (knee) is stiff. My right leg is still in a full-leg cast. My rear end is scarred and deformed. I have a colostomy. The doctors have told me I may never be able to have children and I may never bend either knee again."

"My question is: Does one human being have the right to take these kind of things away from another? I was under the impression that drunk driving was against the law. The man who hit me was fined \$300 and his license was suspended for a year. But, this man was allowed to get a hardship license so he could work. Ironically enough, this man drives cars for a living and was working at the time he hit me."

"At the time of the accident, I was 5'2½" tall, weighed 107 pounds and measured 34-23-34. I was eighteen years old. Now, I am an inch and a half shorter, weigh 147 pounds, and won't even measure myself. I'll be 20 years old the 25th of this month (September)."

"A little over a week ago I wrote a letter to our town paper and said basically the same thing I just told you. In my letter, I asked for people to respond in support by writing or calling me at home. The letter was published and I received only two responses. But, I know I can count on my family for support. Now, I need help. I don't know what my next move should be toward getting the drunk-driving laws changed. Please help me. I am very serious about what I am doing. I am not going to let this thing happen to someone else without the drunk driver even getting punished."

"God saved my life for a reason, and I believe that reason is for me to try to keep others from being hurt as I have been, or worse. But where do I go from here? Since I am not able to go door to door, I'm not able to even start petitions. Please, please help me. I want to do SOMETHING!"

—Kimberly Knight

1201 Swope Drive
Independence, MO 64051

NEW LAWS IN OTHER STATES

As you well know, drunk driving seems to be a major topic of conversation in our states' legislatures. Across the nation drunk-driving laws are either being passed or introduced. Here is a sampling of some of the laws we have heard about:

NEW YORK: Effective November 28, 1981.

DWAI Conviction — First offense, \$250 fine and/or not more than 15 days in jail, and 90-day suspension of license. Second offense (in five years) \$350-\$500 fine and/or not more than 30 days in jail, and 180-day suspension of license. Third offense (three or more in ten years) \$500-\$1500 fine and/or not more than 90 days in jail, and minimum six-month revocation of license.

DWI Conviction — First DWI misdemeanor, \$350-\$500 fine and/or not more than one year in jail, possible three years probation, and minimum six-month revocation of license.

Second DWI within ten years felony, not less than \$500 fine and other such penalties as provided in penal law, possible five years probation, and minimum six-month revocation of license. Two DWI convictions within ten years involving personal injury, lifetime revocation, no unconditional discharge and conditional discharge must be accompanied by fine.

NEW HAMPSHIRE: Effective August 29, 1981.

All repeat offenders must serve a week behind bars.

WISCONSIN: Effective May 1, 1982.

First conviction of drunk driving, \$150-\$300 fine plus \$150 surcharge and 3-6 months license suspension. Second conviction, \$300-\$1000 fine plus \$150 surcharge, 5-60 days mandatory jail and 6 months to 1 year license revocation. Third conviction, \$600-\$2000 fine plus \$150 surcharge, 30-365 days mandatory jail and 1-2 years license revocation.

(continued on page 6)

NEW LAWS . . .

(continued from page 5)

MARYLAND:

The Governor's Task Force resulted in the General Assembly's enacting new laws which changed the charge of DWI to DUI and reduced the BAC for this charge from .10 to .08; also reduced the BAC for DWI from .15 to .13. A police officer is now allowed to administer a pre-arrest breath test to provide the officer with an objective measure of whether probable cause exists to make an arrest. Drivers who refuse to take a breath or blood test can have their driver's license suspended from 60 days to 6 months.

A conviction of DWI may result in a fine up to \$1000 or 1 year in jail or both, and license revocation, and an assessment of 12 points on the driving record. A conviction of DUI may result in a fine of up to \$500 or 2 months in jail or both, and a license suspension of 60 days, and an assessment of 6 points on the driving record.

CANADA: Effective December 1981.

Under Bill #178, drivers shown by a roadside breath test to have between 50 and 80 milligrams of alcohol to 100 millilitres of blood would lose their license for 12 hours but not face fines or criminal charges.

ILLINOIS: Effective January 1, 1982.

Key features of the new law include doubling to 6 months the license suspension of a driver who refuses to submit to a breath test, elimination of a 90-minute wait between the time of arrest and when police can give the test, elimination of a second test that now can be demanded by a driver who flunks the first, allowing police to order blood and urine tests if a motorist's breath exam shows no traces of alcohol and police suspect the driver may be under the influence of some other chemical or organic drug, allowing medical officers to take blood and urine samples from a dead or unconscious or otherwise incapacitated motorist, and allowing the refusal to submit to a breath test as evidence in a court prosecution of a motorist suspected of drunken driving.

MAINE: Effective September 18, 1981.

Minimum jail term of 48 hours and a minimum fine of \$350 for first or subsequent convictions. Also, suspension of a convicted drunk-driver's license for at least 90 days which may be reduced by one-third by completion of a treatment or education program, increase to 180 days the period of suspension for a driver's refusal to submit to a blood or breath test for BAC, and made the owner of any vehicle driven by an impaired driver liable for any damage caused by that driver.

PEOPLE POWER

When I first started MADD I was totally apolitical. I was not a registered voter and I didn't know a Republican from a Democrat. When I began working with politicians and learning how our legislature operates, I was appalled at some of the people we had elected to represent us. That is when I realized how vital it was for all of us to participate in the voting process. When our legislature does not respond to the concerns of the public, remember: **WE PUT THEM WHERE THEY ARE.** Either by not voting or not being concerned enough to check into the individual's record when we do vote.

When legislation is introduced that affects our pocket-books, we raise hell. But when legislation is introduced that could save the lives of our loved ones, all too often we are unaware or remain mute.

There are several states introducing bills that will toughen penalties for drunk drivers; Nebraska and Wisconsin are two.

Contact your local representative and learn what legislation is being introduced and how you can help support this legislation.

If our experience of 1981 has taught us anything, it is that we can make a difference if we choose to **MAKE THAT DIFFERENCE!**

—Candy Lightner

SADD

As many of you know, when we first started this organization we also started an offshoot called SADD (Students Against Drunk Drivers). Due to lack of time, money and staff, we were unable to develop this program as we would have liked.

However, other SADD groups are being organized throughout the United States. We would like to call attention to one.

This group was started by Melissa Kinsley of Adelphi, Maryland and Suzi Kilbourne of Beltsville, Maryland. They have appeared in the media, including radio and TV. Recently, a bill written by their school vice-president passed the county level of Student Government and it went before the Maryland State Council in early February.

This group has done a tremendous job. They started SADD because a friend of theirs, Kathy Sourles, was killed in a crash caused by a man who was driving while intoxicated. We are listing their addresses in case others would like to start SADD programs. I am sure they would like to hear from you. They will offer whatever assistance they can. Please contact:

Melissa Kinsley
Co-Chairman SADD
10912 Ashfield Road
Adelphi, MD 20783

(or) Suzi Kilbourne
Co-Chairman SADD
1407 Sellman Road
Beltsville, MD 20705

News Release

"Center for Science in the Public Interest"

Alcohol Advertising Criticized

The Center for Science in the Public Interest (CSPI) today criticized two federal agencies for never acting upon or publicizing a government-sponsored study linking alcohol consumption with alcohol advertising.

Among the findings of the Michigan State University study, completed in 1981, are:

- advertising increased consumption by about ten percent; "ads may prompt excessive drinking and contribute to alcohol problems."
- "... compared to adults, adolescents seem to be more influenced by ads that used celebrity endorsers, sexy models, and youthful-looking characters ..."
- approximately 5 percent of the 14-16 year-olds and 24 percent of the 16-18 year-olds interviewed in the study said they had driven a car when they were too drunk to drive.
- in a group of 12-14 year-old children, 21 percent said they had drunk Gordon's gin and 48 percent had drunk Budweiser beer.

CSPI director Michael Jacobson criticized the federal agencies that sponsored the study for not publicizing the findings and for ignoring the recommendations.

Jacobson said, "The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms and the Federal Trade Commission had totally abdicated their

responsibility to the public to regulate the advertising of products that cause tens of thousands of deaths a year and enormous harm to society.

"Alcoholic beverage producers spend at least one billion dollars a year promoting their products. At a time when alcohol consumption and alcohol problems are rising, especially among teenagers, it is urgent that the federal government help protect the public's health."

The citizens group, in letters to Senators Orrin Hatch (R-UT), Gordon Humphrey (R-NH), and Donald Riegle (D-MI), called for hearings, urging a full inquiry into the effects of advertising on alcohol consumption. Senator Hatch heads the Senate Labor and Human Resources Committee, while Senators Humphrey and Riegle are the two ranking members of the Subcommittee on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse.

The Michigan State University study was supervised by Dr. Charles Atkin and Dr. Martin Block. It was financed by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms; Federal Trade Commission, National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism; and the Department of Transportation.

The study estimated that in 1977 network television carried more than 5,000 beer and wine ads, and 41 major magazines carried more than 2,500 liquor ads.

Center for Science in the Public Interest, a non-profit citizens group with 33,000 members, conducts studies and produces educational materials to promote better health policies and better public health. CSPI is supported by its members, foundation grants, and the sale of publications.

News of
Pennsylvania,
New Jersey
and Delaware

The Philadelphia Inquirer new jersey & metro

section

B

Monday, February 1, 1982

By FRANK ROSSI



Unfair at any speed

Chris Henderson was in the passing lane on the Garden State Parkway when he saw the headlights. It was a car coming the wrong way in his lane and it was coming fast. In a fraction of a second, a plan formed in Henderson's mind.

He couldn't swerve right because there were cars in that lane. There were trees and a wood-post barrier to the left. If he was careful he could glance off the side of the trees and the barrier and stop. He was trying to pull it off when it didn't matter any more. The crash was almost head-on, that is, the passenger side of the pickup truck that had been going the wrong way caught the passenger side of Chris Henderson's car.

Chris Henderson, wedged in a 12-

foot-long car reduced to 6 feet, suffered a crushed leg, a fractured skull, a broken jaw and a broken hand. His girlfriend, Brenda Anderson, sitting next to him choking in her own blood, died of a broken neck.

On Aug. 24, 1980, Chris Henderson and Brenda Anderson had gone to a wedding reception. After the reception Chris went home for some clothes, and then they drove to Brenda's so she could change. Brenda's sister had rented a place at the shore, and Chris and Brenda were going to spend Sunday baking in the sun.

No time to move

It was after 2 in the morning when they got going, and it was maybe 3 a.m. when Chris wheeled off the Atlantic City Expressway and got on the Garden State Parkway.

The accident happened minutes later. Chris was driving in the left lane on a left curve and didn't have enough time to get out of the way. A trooper had received a report that somebody was driving the wrong way on the parkway and was on his way to head the guy off. The trooper arrived a minute too late.

Pinned in the wreckage, Chris Henderson was in a fog. "What happened? Am I losing my mind?"

"No, no," the trooper said, "you got hit head-on."

Then the rescue crew sawed through the door and dragged Chris

Henderson out and he screamed in pain and passed out.

Two days later a trooper came into Chris Henderson's hospital room. He had a present for Henderson. A summons. The summons invited Henderson to appear in court for driving while his New Jersey operator's license had been suspended. Henderson couldn't figure it. He let his Jersey license expire years ago when he moved to Pennsylvania and got a Pennsylvania license.

Two licenses

The explanation was this: In 1977 Chris Henderson became a Pennsylvania resident and got a Pennsylvania driver's license. For a time he had two valid licenses. One night, after he'd crossed the Walt Whitman Bridge into New Jersey, Chris Henderson was nailed for speeding.

Henderson showed the trooper his Pennsylvania license. The trooper said that because Henderson was from out of state, bail would be required. That's when Henderson mentioned that he also had a valid New Jersey license. In that case we'll just make the ticket out to your Jersey license and you can run along without posting bail, the trooper said.

That was the last Chris Henderson ever heard about it. He forgot about the ticket. Never paid it. Nothing ever came in the mail. Maybe the trooper had been a nice guy and didn't turn the ticket in.

But the trooper didn't forget. For three years the computer in New Jersey's state capital kept a record of Chris Henderson's crime. And then Henderson had slipped up — that is he'd had the bad luck of having been nearly killed by someone who was driving the wrong way on the Garden State Parkway. He was caught.

Peculiar justice

First things first, though. The man who had been the cause of it all was arrested for drunken driving and death by auto.

Chris Henderson recuperated enough to get released from the hospital, although several operations would be needed to get him in working order. Brenda Anderson's parents cried themselves dry, and then all that was left was the grief.

Henderson hired a lawyer. The lawyer sued the wrong-way pickup truck driver's insurance company and got an out-of-court settlement.

Then in the spring the man who had been charged with driving the wrong way while drunk and causing the death of Brenda Anderson came before a judge. The man pleaded guilty.

The judge released him on probation.

Two weeks ago Chris Henderson came before a judge for failing to pay a speeding ticket.

Henderson was sentenced to 45 days in jail.

REPORTS WORTH QUOTING

SAN FRANCISCO AP — "A drunken driver can face murder charges if he is involved in a fatal car crash, the California Supreme Court said in December 1981.

Rejecting a claim that all vehicular homicides must be tried as manslaughter, the high court reinstated two second-degree murder charges against Robert Lee Watson, saying he "exhibited wantonness and conscious disregard for human life."

He was charged with second-degree murder and vehicular manslaughter following a January 2, 1979 accident at Redding. According to court documents, he had drunk a lot of beer at a bar and later nearly collided with one car and then struck another, killing Penny Maillet and her daughter Michelle.

The speed limit was 35 mph but Watson allegedly was going 84 mph before hitting the brakes and he skidded into the car at 70 mph.

His blood alcohol content was .23 percent, more than twice the amount for legal intoxicification.

Shasta County Superior Court granted his motion to dismiss the murder counts on grounds the acts did not demonstrate malice, and the state appealed.

Watson contended there was at the most gross negligence under the manslaughter law. The Supreme Court, however, said the facts supported a finding of implied malice, which justifies a murder charge.

The court defined manslaughter as the unlawful killing of a human being without malice. It said a person who kills — whether or not he is engaged in an independent felony — is guilty of murder if he acts with malice aforethought.

"Because of the conduct of defendant in this case, reasonably viewed, exhibited wantonness and a conscious disregard for life which would support a finding of implied malice, we conclude that the order of dismissal must be reversed," said the court.

Malice may be implied "when a defendant does an act with a high probability that it will result in death and does it with a base antisocial motive and with a wanton disregard for human life," the 5-2 decision said.

Chief Justice Rose Bird and Los Angeles Superior Court Judge Richard Ibanez dissented.

She said the court not only was rewriting the law of implied malice but also was making "it a virtual certainty that any individual who knowingly drives to a social outing, takes a few drinks, and while driving home is involved in an accident in which a death occurs, may be charged with murder in the second degree."



So many people requested additional information on the report in our last newsletter regarding raising the legal drinking age. If you would like a copy of this report, "The Effect of Raising The Legal Minimum Drinking Age on Fatal Crash Involvement" June 1981, please contact the following: Insurance Institute For Highway Safety, 600 Watergate, Washington, DC 20037

The abstract of this report reads:

"In the early 1970's, many states in the U.S. lowered their legal minimum drinking ages, resulting in increased fatal crash involvement among young drivers. Beginning in 1976 and continuing into the 1980's, some of these states raised their drinking ages. The present study, conducted in nine states in which the drinking ages were raised, found that this resulted in reductions in fatal crash involvement among drivers the law applied to, especially in types of fatal crashes in which alcohol is most often involved. The reductions in the nighttime fatal crash involvement of such drivers, that occurred in eight of the nine states, ranged from 6 to 75 percent. On an average, a state that raises its drinking age can expect about a 28 percent reduction in nighttime fatal crash involvement among drivers the law change applies to. It was estimated that in the 14 states that had raised their drinking ages as of January 1981, the result each year is about 380 fewer young drivers involved in nighttime fatal crashes. In the 31 states that still had a legal minimum drinking age less than 21 as of that date, it is estimated that each year there could be about 730 fewer young drivers in nighttime fatal crashes if the legal drinking age were raised to 21."

MADD

MOTHERS AGAINST DRUNK DRIVERS

5330 Primrose, Suite 146, Fair Oaks, CA 95628

NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE

PAID

PERMIT NO. 25
FAIR OAKS, CA 95628

PRESS CONTACTS ON CALIFORNIA DRUNK DRIVING PROBLEM

Stephen Blankenship, Legislative Liaison
Office of the Attorney General
445-0275

Kent R. Milton, Information Officer
California Highway Patrol
445-3908

Roger E. Hagen, Ph.D., Research Specialist
Department of Motor Vehicles, State of California
322-7091

Steve White, Executive Director
California District Attorneys Association
443-2017

Lorenzo G. Patino, Judge of the Municipal Court
Sacramento, California
440-5502

Herb Jackson, District Attorney
Sacramento County
444-0520

Tony White, Chief Deputy District Attorney
Sacramento, California
440-5502

Press Secretary to New York Governor
578 474-8418
(For information on New York task force on drunk driving.)

Press Secretary to Maryland Governor
301 269-2316
(For information on Maryland task force on drunk driving.)



(SAMPLE PRESS RELEASE)

MOTHERS AGAINST DRUNK DRIVERS

5330 Primrose, Suite 146 • Fair Oaks, CA 95628 • (916) 966-MADD

For further information contact:
Candy Lightner
(916) 966-6233

P R E S S R E L E A S E

RELEASE DATE: August 26, 1980, 10:00 a.m.

CRACKDOWN ON DRUNK DRIVERS SOUGHT BY MOTHERS AGAINST DRUNK DRIVERS.

A GROUP OF ANGRY SACRAMENTO RESIDENTS, LED BY CANDY LIGHTNER (FOUNDER OF MOTHERS AGAINST DRUNK DRIVERS), APPEALED TO GOVERNOR BROWN TUESDAY FOR REFORMS TO CRACK DOWN ON DRUNK DRIVERS. BROWN ASKED BY M.A.D.D. TO APPOINT A TASK FORCE TO FIND SOLUTIONS TO A PROBLEM THAT RESULTED IN 2500 DEATHS IN CALIFORNIA LAST YEAR.

MS. LIGHTNER'S 13-YEAR-OLD DAUGHTER, CARI, WAS STRUCK AND KILLED ON MAY 3 BY A REPEAT DRUNK DRIVER. THE DRIVER ARRESTED FOR THE HIT-AND-RUN DEATH OF CARI LIGHTNER HAD BEEN OUT OF JAIL ON BAIL FOR ONLY TWO DAYS ON ANOTHER HIT-AND RUN DRUNK-DRIVING CRASH. MS. LIGHTNER QUESTIONED A SYSTEM THAT WOULD ALLOW REPEAT DRUNK DRIVERS TO DRIVE AND KILL AGAIN, A SYSTEM WHERE DRUNK DRIVERS HAVE ALMOST NOTHING TO FEAR AND VICTIMS ARE VIRTUALLY IGNORED.

M.A.D.D. IS CIRCULATING PETITIONS ASKING FOR A STATEWIDE EXPLORATION BY A GOVERNOR-APPOINTED TASK FORCE TO DEVELOP EFFECTIVE SOLUTIONS THAT CAN BE ADVOCATED AND IMPLEMENTED.

CANDY LIGHTNER FOUNDED M.A.D.D. LAST MAY, AND THE ORGANIZATION TODAY HAS ____ CHAPTERS IN ____ STATES. ON OCTOBER 2 SHE WILL BE TAKING HER CRUSADE TO CONGRESS AND THE WHITE HOUSE.



(SAMPLE TEASER)

MOTHERS AGAINST DRUNK DRIVERS

5330 Primrose, Suite 146 • Fair Oaks, CA 95628 • (916) 966-MADD

N E W S R E L E A S E

AUGUST 19, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Candy Lightner
(916) 966-6233

CANDY LIGHTNER, FOUNDER OF MOTHERS AGAINST DRUNK DRIVER (M.A.D.D.) WILL HOLD A
PRESS CONFERENCE AT STATE CAPITOL TO ASK GOVERNOR BROWN TO APPOINT A STATE
TASK FORCE ON DRUNK DRIVING.

CANDY LIGHTNER, FOUNDER OF MOTHERS AGAINST DRUNK DRIVERS (MADD) WILL HOLD A
PRESS CONFERENCE IN THE STATE CAPITOL PRESS ROOM , AUGUST 26, 1982, AT 10:00
A.M. MS. LIGHTNER AND OTHER M.A.D.D. MEMBERS WILL CALL ON GOVERNOR BROWN TO
APPOINT A STATE TASK FORCE ON DRUNK DRIVING. A GROUP OF STUDENTS, INCLUDING
CLASSMATES OF MS. LIGHTNER'S DAUGHTER, CARI, WHO WAS KILLED BY A DRUNK DRIVER,
ARE EXPECTED TO HOLD A MARCH ON THE CAPITOL GROUNDS PRIOR TO THE PRESS
CONFERENCE.

STATEMENT OF CANDY LIGHTNER:

MY NAME IS CANDY LIGHTNER. I AM THE PRESIDENT OF A NEWLY-FORMED GRASS-ROOTS ORGANIZATION CALLED M.A.D.D. -- MOTHERS AGAINST DRUNK DRIVERS. THE GROUP STARTED IN SACRAMENTO AS A DIRECT RESULT OF THE DEATH OF MY 13-YEAR-OLD DAUGHTER, CARI, WHO WAS KILLED IN MAY OF THIS YEAR BY A REPEAT-OFFENDER DRUNK DRIVER.

CARI WAS KILLED AT 1:20 P.M. WHILE WALKING INSIDE A BICYCLE LANE ON HER WAY TO A NEARBY CHURCH. THE MAN WHO KILLED HER DID NOT STOP. HE WAS LATER ARRESTED AND CHARGED WITH FELONY HIT AND RUN, FELONY DRUNK DRIVING AND FELONY VEHICULAR MANSLAUGHTER. IN FACT, THE MAN WHO KILLED MY DAUGHTER WAS OUT OF JAIL ON BAIL FOR ONLY TWO DAYS FROM ANOTHER HIT-AND-RUN DRUNK-DRIVING ARREST. THE ARREST RECORD OF MY DAUGHTER'S KILLER IS NOT UNUSUAL AND ONLY REPRESENTS THE TIP OF THE ICEBERG OF THE DRUNK-DRIVING PROBLEM HERE IN CALIFORNIA.

FOLLOWING CARI'S DEATH I HAVE LEARNED A GREAT DEAL ABOUT THE SERIOUSNESS AND URGENCY OF THE DRUNK-DRIVING PROBLEM IN THIS STATE. I HAD NO CHOICE; THIS WAS THE SECOND TIME MY DAUGHTER WAS HIT BY A DRUNK DRIVER. THIS TIME IT COST HER LIFE.

I WANT TO PROTECT NOT ONLY MY REMAINING CHILDREN BUT OTHER CHILDREN AS WELL. IN THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA THE LARGEST AGE GROUP AFFECTED BY DRUNK DRIVING DEATHS LIES BETWEEN THE AGES OF 15 AND 24

DRUNK DRIVING IS A PROBLEM THAT IS NOT BEING ADEQUATELY OR EFFECTIVELY ADDRESSED BY THE STATE. THE PROBLEM IS GROWING WORSE AND THREATENS OR AFFECTS THE LIFE AND LIMB OF EVERY CALIFORNIA CITIZEN EVERY DAY. WE PLAN TO ENSURE THAT INNOCENT PEOPLE ARE BETTER PROTECTED IN THE FUTURE FROM DRUNK DRIVERS.

THE DRUNK DRIVERS IN THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA HAVE ALMOST NOTHING TO FEAR FROM THE SYSTEM. YET, WE VICTIMS ARE BEING VIRTUALLY IGNORED. I FIND THAT APPALLING. EACH YEAR IN THE UNITED STATES ABOUT 25,000 PEOPLE ARE KILLED IN ALCOHOL-RELATED CRASHES. IN THE PAST TEN YEARS MORE THAN 250,000 HAVE BEEN KILLED NATIONWIDE AND MILLIONS INJURED - MANY CRIPPLED OR IMPAIRED FOR LIFE. NATIONWIDE THE ECONOMIC COST OF

COMMUNITY AWARENESS AND THE MEDIA

A. ANNOUNCING M.A.D.D. TO THE COMMUNITY AND THE MEDIA

1. Formation of chapter - first meeting
2. After chapter is formed - open house

B. PRESS RELEASE

1. Whom to send
 - a. local press
 - b. all radio
 - c. all TV
 - d. all newspapers
 - e. AP
 - f. UPI
2. Sample format (See Sample)
3. Content
 - a. date, time and location
 - b. teaser (see sample)
4. Provide brief background information on your chapter and MADD

C. PRESS STATEMENT

1. Make copies for everyone attending.
2. Supply list of resource people for press to check with.

D. PRESS CONFERENCE

1. Send press release
2. Make up press conference packets
 - a. picture of love one if necessary
 - b. press statement of yourself and others
 - c. list of resources

E. TIPS ON WORKING WITH THE PRESS

1. Honesty: If you do not know the answer to a question, tell them. You are only an expert on being a "victim" or "concerned citizen".
2. Emotions: If you present yourself as an hysterical, emotional individual seeking revenge, you will be treated as such.
3. Accuracy: MADD has a tremendous reputation for credibility. We would like to maintain that credibility. Do not give facts of a case or anything else you cannot verify. You may know it is true but cannot prove it, so don't say it!

OVER

F. TERMINOLOGY

1. Exclusive: Limited to a special favored one, excluding all others.
(For example: You agree to give an "exclusive" to a particular reporter on a particular story. This story cannot then be given to another reporter.)
2. Off the record: Not for the record. Just between ourselves.
(For example: You are talking to a reporter and he asks a question you would like to answer but you do not want it printed. You must say to him, "What I have to say is off the record. Do you agree?" If he does agree, you may then give answer. If he does not agree, do not give the answer or you may see it printed.)
3. Not for attribution: Cannot identify source
(For example: A reporter calls you and says, "I understand you are being appointed to the Governor's Task Force." For some reason you do not want this information to come from you, perhaps you do not want to toot your own horn. You may say, "This is not for attribution. Do you agree?" If they agree you may say, "Yes, I am." If they do not agree, you may find they will quote you and give your name as a source.)
4. Background: This is story element. Continuity to set the mood.
(For example: You were talking about a particular problem you know exists within the D.A.'s office. This problem, along with others, had led your group to ask for a County Task Force. In giving reasons, you may not want your reasons to be made a matter of public record using your name as a source. So, you may say, "This is background only. I am sure you have heard there is a low morale problem in the D.A.'s office because of lack of prosecution of drunk drivers. This is one of the problems we want solved.")

AGAIN, MAKE SURE THEY AGREE THAT WHAT YOU ARE SAYING IS NOT FOR ATTRIBUTION, OFF THE RECORD, BACKGROUND ONLY, OR WHATEVER YOU USE BEFORE YOU GIVE THE PARTICULARS.

G. WHAT NOT TO SAY TO THE PRESS

1. Do not say anything that will destroy your credibility or MADD's credibility.
2. Do not say anything that will allow the press to think you are only interested in your own particular case and not the drunk driving issue as a whole.
3. Do not continually criticize the press. Offer praise.
4. Do not make inaccurate statements or the press will lose their trust in you.
5. Do not talk about problems within the organization or within your chapter.
6. Do not continually "toot your own horn". In other words, do not notify them of every award you receive.
7. Do not criticize other drunk driving organizations or their lack of accomplishments.
8. Do not criticize specific rehabilitation programs, and do not praise specific rehabilitation programs.

KEEP YOUR FOCUS ON THE DRUNK DRIVING ISSUE. TRY NOT TO DIVERSIFY, FOR EXAMPLE THE DRUG PROBLEM.

STATEMENT OF SERENA LIGHTNER AUGUST 26, 1981

MY NAME IS SERENA LIGHTNER. I AM THE IDENTICAL TWIN SISTER OF CARI LIGHTNER. NEXT WEEK WILL BE MY 14th BIRTHDAY. IT WILL BE MY FIRST BIRTHDAY WITHOUT MY SISTER. I LEARNED IN SCHOOL ABOUT GOVERNMENT AND JUSTICE, BUT WHAT I LEARN AND WHAT I SEE NOW ARE TWO DIFFERENT THINGS. I WAS THE ONE INJURED THE FIRST TIME WE WERE HIT BY A DRUNK DRIVER. I AM NOW AFRAID TO RIDE MY BIKE OR WALK ON PUBLIC ROADS BECAUSE OF WHAT HAPPENED TO MY SISTER.

CARI AND I SHARED EVERYTHING FROM A ROOM TO BOYFRIENDS. NOW I HAVE NO ONE TO SHARE WITH AND I MISS HER VERY MUCH.

I HOPE THE GOVERNOR WILL FINALLY DO SOMETHING ABOUT THIS PROBLEM.....

SACRAMENTO ADDRESS
STATE CAPITOL
SACRAMENTO 95814
(916) 445-4445
DISTRICT ADDRESS
6021 MADISON AVENUE
CARMICHAEL, CA 95608
(916) 334-8228
ADM. ASSISTANTS
PATTY HATFIELD
JIM SHULTZ

CHAIRWOMAN
SUB COMMITTEE ON
HEALTH PERSONNEL
HEALTH COMMITTEE
JUDICIARY
UTILITIES AND ENERGY
COMMITTEE
SELECT COMMITTEE ON
GENETIC DISEASES

Assembly

California Legislature



JEAN M. MOORHEAD
ASSEMBLYWOMAN, FIFTH DISTRICT

STATEMENT OF JEAN MOORHEAD

August 26, 1982

THE DRUNK DRIVING SITUATION HAS BECOME TOTALLY INTOLERABLY!

WHAT SORT OF SOCIETY DO WE HAVE THAT ALLOWS REPEAT OFFENDERS TO BE OUT ON THE STREETS? A STUDY RELEASED THIS WEEK BY THE STATE REVEALED THAT 65% OF THOSE WHO HAVE HAD THEIR DRIVER'S LICENSES SUSPENDED OR REVOKED BECAUSE OF DRUNK DRIVING CONVICTIONS, CONTINUE TO DRIVE.

I AM HERE TODAY WITH CANDY LIGHTNER AND HER GROUP TO REQUEST THAT GOVERNOR BROWN APPOINT A TASK FORCE TO FIND SOLUTIONS TO THESE PROBLEMS. THERE MUST BE A BETTER METHOD. THERE MUST BE A BETTER WAY TO SAVE THE LIVES OF THE CHILDREN OF CALIFORNIA.

EDUCATE THE PUBLIC BY INVOLVING THE PUBLIC

A. WORKING CONSISTENTLY WITH THE MEDIA

PLAN SPECIAL EVENTS AROUND HOLIDAYS THAT INVOLVE MEDIA AND PUBLIC.
FOR EXAMPLE, FREE TAXI SERVICE ON NEW YEARS EVE. INVOLVE THE COMMUNITY.

B. COMMUNITY AWARENESS BOOTHS

1. CAN BE SET UP AT MALLS, COLLEGES, SHOPPING CENTERS, ETC.
2. USE PETITIONS TO GET PEOPLE INVOLVED.

C. SPEAKERS' BUREAU

CAN SPEAK AT LOCAL KIWANIS AND OTHER COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS, COLLEGES, SCHOOLS, ETC.

D. PANEL DISCUSSIONS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

1. INVITE A JUDGE, ENFORCEMENT, D.A.
 - (A) DO NOT OVERBURDEN PANEL
 - (B) DO NOT SHOW FILMS UNTIL END (PEOPLE GET BORED); OR HAVE SEPARATE MEETINGS - ONE FOR PANEL, ONE FOR FILMS.
 - (C) DO NOT OVERBURDEN PUBLIC
 - (D) ALLOW THE PUBLIC TO AIR COMPLAINTS AND ASK QUESTIONS.

E. UPDATING THE PUBLIC

1. THIS CAN BE DONE THROUGH NEWSLETTERS, NEWS CONFERENCES, ETC.
(MAKE SURE YOU ARE COMPLETELY FACTUAL.)
2. ENCOURAGE PARTICIPATION FROM THE PUBLIC
 - (A) WRITE LETTERS
 - (B) SPEAK OUT AGAINST DRUNK DRIVING
 - (C) TARGET AUDIENCES
 - (1) FOR EXAMPLE, YOU WOULD NOT GIVE THE SAME SPEECH TO YOUTH AS YOU WOULD TO DOCTORS.
 - (2) GIVE EACH GROUP SUGGESTIONS AS TO HOW THEY CAN PARTICIPATE.

F. MEDIA AND VICTIM CASES

1. DO NOT CONTACT THE MEDIA UNLESS
 - (A) THE CASE IS PARTICULARLY NEWSWORTHY
 - (B) THERE ARE SHENANIGANS INVOLVED IN THE CASE AND YOU HAVE TRIED EVERYTHING ELSE; AGAIN, BE FACTUAL.
2. DO NOT CONTACT THE MEDIA UNLESS YOU HAVE PERMISSION AND COOPERATION FROM THE VICTIM AND/OR FAMILY.
3. SEND PRESS RELEASE NOTIFYING THE PRESS OF HEARING DATE, TRIAL DATE, SENTENCING DATE, ETC.
4. DO NOT EXPECT THEM TO ATTEND EVERY HEARING, ETC.
5. IF CASE IS BEING HANDLED UNSATISFACTORILY, CONTACT THE PUBLIC (THROUGH NEWSLETTERS) TO WRITE WHOMEVER IS INVOLVED (I.E. D.A., JUDGE, ETC, EXPRESSING CONCERN AND DISSATISFACTION.

THE DRUNK-DRIVING PROBLEM IS IN EXCESS OF FOUR BILLION DOLLARS A YEAR. AND THESE COSTS DO NOT TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE DEVASTING EMOTIONAL AND FINANCIAL IMPACT ON THE SURVIVORS OF DRUNK-DRIVING "CRASHES" - THE WIDOWS, ORPHANS AND THE CRIPPLED AND MAIMED.

I AM ASKING WHY THIS CARNAGE ON OUR HIGHWAYS IS ALLOWED TO CONTINUE UNABATED. THAT IS WHY WE ARE CALLING ON GOVERNOR BROWN TO TAKE A FIRM LEADERSHIP ROLE AS THE HIGHEST ELECTED OFFICIAL IN THE STATE TO APPOINT A TASK FORCE. THE PURPOSE OF THE TASK FORCE WOULD NOT BE TO STUDY THE PROBLEM - THAT'S BEEN DONE, BUT TO SOLVE THE PROBLEM - THAT HASN'T BEEN DONE. WE CALL ON GOVERNOR BROWN TO APPOINT A TASK FORCE THAT IS CHARGED WITH THE RESPONSIBILITY OF DEVELOPING BROAD-BASED MEASURES TO ADDRESS THE PROBLEM OF DRINKING DRIVERS. THE TASK FORCE SHOULD BE REQUIRED TO THINK OF ANY AND ALL POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS TO THIS PROBLEM WHETHER IT BE NEW LEGISLATION, MORE STRINGENT SENTENCING BY THE JUDGES, OR MORE EFFECTIVE PROSECUTION BY THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE.

THE GOVERNORS OF MARYLAND AND NEW YORK HAVE STARTED SUCH A TASK FORCE IN THEIR STATES. THEY REALIZE THE SERIOUSNESS AND URGENCY OF DOING SOMETHING ABOUT THE DRUNK-DRIVING PROBLEM. WE ASK OUR GOVERNOR TO DO THE SAME.

RECENTLY CALIFORNIA LEGISLATORS AND GOVERNOR BROWN TOOK THE TIME TO SAVE A LITTLE DOG. AN ELDERLY WIDOW COMMITTED SUICIDE AND THE INSTRUCTIONS OF HER WILL ORDERED THE PET KILLED. THE S.P.C.A. TOOK THE CASE TO COURT. GOVERNOR BROWN PERSONALLY CALLED THE JUDGE. THE JUDGE DULY STAYED THE CANINE EXECUTOR. HE PROCLAIMED, "EVEN STRAY AND ABANDONED DOGS HAVE RIGHTS".

I HOPE THAT GOVERNOR BROWN AND THE LEGISLATORS WILL ALSO FIND SOME TIME FOR AN ISSUE WHERE THE LIVES OF INNOCENT CHILDREN ARE AT STAKE. SURELY CHILDREN ARE AT LEAST AS IMPORTANT AS DOGS.

AT THIS TIME WE ARE URGING CONCERNED CITIZENS AND PUBLIC OFFICIALS ALIKE TO WRITE TO GOVERNOR BROWN SUPPORTING THE REQUEST FOR THE TASK FORCE. WE HAVE STARTED A STATEWIDE PETITION DRIVE ASKING THE GOVERNOR TO APPOINT THE TASK FORCE. THIS IS HOW THE PETITION READS:

(This is a partial statement actually made by Candy Lightner on August 26, 1980)