

# Teen tires after cell phone talk

DEAR ABBY: My 19-year-old son fell asleep at the wheel of his car this morning on his way to work. He was driving on the expressway, and his car traveled about 80 feet into a wide median, narrowly missing several large obstacles. He's lucky to be alive; his car was totaled.

My son fell asleep because he was tired. We knew he had been making and receiving a lot of late-night phone calls. This morning, after the car was towed, we went over his cell phone records for the past month and learned that he hasn't gone more than three hours without receiving a call! That's a full month without a good night's sleep.

We have contacted other parents. They are discovering the same thing. Because evenings and weekends are free on many cell phone plans, the kids take full advantage. So they call, and call, and call.

A sleep-deprived driver is as dangerous as a driver who's talking on a cell phone, probably even more so. Parents: Teach your kids to skip the late-night phone calls so they can survive their next drive.

— EYES WIDE OPEN IN N.Y.  
**DEAR EYES WIDE OPEN: I hope parents and teens will pay attention to your letter. Evening and weekend minutes may have been free on your son's calling plan, but because he didn't use them sensibly, they could have cost him his life.**

While young people today have become adept at multi-tasking, one fact remains constant: People need a certain amount of sleep in order for their minds and bodies to function properly. Lack of sleep can adversely affect a person's physical and mental health. Sleep deprivation adversely affects not only our reflexes, but also our mental health and our immune systems. This is something we can control. When staying "connected" becomes an addiction, it's time to pull the plug.



**Abigail Van Buren**

• Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: My mom is out with her boss, "Larry." She always leaves me home alone to go out with him. I don't think his wife goes with them. Once my mom forgot I only had a half-day of school, and when I came home she was with him in her room. I went to the neighbors so she wouldn't know I had heard them. That night she left me alone again to be with him. I am scared to be alone.

— LATCHKEY KID

**DEAR LATCHKEY: Your letter saddened me when I read it. You should not be left alone as frequently as it appears you are. Have you a relationship with your father, an aunt or uncle, or your grandparents? If the answer is yes, please tell them what you have confided to me and ask if you can stay with one of them sometimes. If you have no family nearby, talk to the mothers of some of your friends and ask if you can spend time at their house when your mother is "otherwise occupied." It's not the same as having her to watch over you, but it would be better than what you've got now. You have my sympathy.**

DEAR ABBY: My fiancé, "Mr. Right," and I have been together three years. He wasn't born in this country, but he became a citizen quite a while ago.

His mother says she "loves me to death" and brags about me to all her friends, but she frequently makes comments that "Americans are stupid." She also calls my mother stupid because she has been married three times and has three children

by three different men.

I have told Mr. Right that this hurts me deeply and asked him to say something to his mother about it, because I'm concerned that one day I'll lose my temper. He still hasn't said anything.

— UPSET IN S.C.

**DEAR UPSET: The next time your fiancé's mother calls Americans stupid, remind her that her son is now a proud American. And the next time she makes an insulting comment about your mother, tell her you find it extremely hurtful when she puts your mother down. If the woman persists after that, you'll know she really doesn't "love you to death," and that if you marry "Mr. Right," you're in for one heck of a mother-in-law problem.**

DEAR ABBY: This is the second marriage for my husband, "Harry," and me. Harry's son, "Joel," is coming to visit soon. Joel is twice-divorced and bringing his girlfriend, whom we have never met. He says he expects his 14-year-old daughter, "Tori," to stay with us, too.

Abby, Joel expects to share a bedroom with his girlfriend while Tori is here. I am opposed to it. Harry wants to please his son, although in theory he is against the arrangement, too. Since Tori lives with her mother in the same town we do, I have suggested that Joel return the girl to her home each night if he expects to sleep with his girlfriend.

Joel is in the military and expects to leave for overseas duty soon, and I don't want to ruin the visit for my husband, but I do feel responsible for Tori. Are we really dinosaurs?

— MORAL IN MUSKOGON

**DEAR MORAL: I don't think so. I agree with you that sharing the same bedroom in front of the girl would be poor judgment, and your solution is a sensible one. To do otherwise would be to send the wrong message. I hope you and Harry stick to your guns.**

**Routine screening and prompt treatment can reduce deaths from breast and cervical cancer.**

call to see if you qualify for a free screening

**early detection works**

Shelley Nelson  
620-275-5302  
www.preventionworkskansas.com

A message from the Kansas Department of Health and Environment, Cancer Information Service, Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation, and American Cancer Society.

## THOMAS COUNTY FREE FAIR

in Colby, KS

Presents...

**ROOFMASTERS  
ROOFING**



**No-Weld Demolition Derby**

1st Place = \$1200

24 CAR FIELD

**Thursday, August 4th, 2005**

**Pit Gates Open  
at 5:00 P.M.**

**Call 785-443-3372 or 785-462-1083 for a copy of the rules!**

## County Fair Daze

July 18-Aug. 13

With every car purchased

**Taylor Motors**

will contribute \$250 to the County  
Fair/Carnival/4-H of your choice!!



**"Used Car Headquarters  
of NW Kansas!"**



- At Southwind Plaza, Colby, KS ~ 460-3317 •
- [www.taylor-motors.com](http://www.taylor-motors.com) ~ 800-834-2338 •



## FROM THE FORD MOTOR COMPANY FAMILY TO YOURS ... WELCOME.

### INTRODUCING THE FORD FAMILY PLAN.

Right now, Ford Motor Company, America's car company, invites you to join the family. You pay the same low prices our employees and their families pay. Until August 1, you'll get our discounts on every Ford vehicle at participating dealerships\*.

**NO HASSLES. NO GIMMICKS.**



2005 FORD FOCUS  
ZX4

\$14,620 MSRP  
- \$3,803 Total Discount  
\$10,817 Ford Family Plan Price\*\*

2005 FORD EXPLORER  
XLS

\$27,810 MSRP  
- \$7,394 Total Discount  
\$20,416 Ford Family Plan Price\*\*

2005 FORD F-150  
XL REGULAR CAB

\$21,325 MSRP  
- \$6,055 Total Discount  
\$15,270 Ford Family Plan Price\*\*



**SEE YOUR LOCAL FORD DEALER**

**TUBBS & SONS FORD SALE**

**810 S. Range • Colby • 460-6746 • [www.fordcarsofcolby.com](http://www.fordcarsofcolby.com)**

**OFFER ENDS AUGUST 1, 2005. [www.ford.com](http://www.ford.com)**

Ford Family Plan available on new 2005 model Ford Car, SUV, Truck (through F-350) and E-Series (through E-350). Not available on Ford GT, Mustang, Escape Hybrid, E-450 - 750. Prices exclude taxes, title, license and dealer fees. Discount includes cashback + Ford Family Plan discount. F-150 Total Discount includes \$500 Home Depot promotional cash. Cash back applies to purchases. Lease cash back may vary. Additional incentives may apply. Take delivery from participating dealer stock by 8/1/05. See dealer for complete details.