

Dear Abby

Dear Abby: Now that summer is here, I notice so many teenagers driving much too fast and recklessly.

Two years ago I clipped the enclosed editorial from our local newspaper and showed it to our teenage son and daughter, and after they read it they became two of the most sensible drivers alive.

Please print it, Abby. It may do the same for others.

—Daily Reader

Dear Reader: It's well worth an entire column. Who wrote it? And for which newspaper? I want to credit it.

"Please God I'm Only Seventeen"

The day I died was an

ordinary school day. How I wish I had taken the bus! But I was too cool for the bus. I remember how I wheedled the car out of Mom. "Special favor," I pleaded, "all the kids drive." When the 2:50 bell rang, I threw all my books in the locker. I was free until 8:40 tomorrow morning! I ran to the parking lot, excited at the thought of driving a car and being my own boss. Free!

It doesn't matter how the accident happened. I was goofing off — going too fast. Taking crazy chances. But I was enjoying my freedom and having fun. The last thing I remember was passing an old lady who seemed to be going

awfully slow. I heard the deafening crash and felt a terrific jolt. Glass and steel flew everywhere. My whole body seemed to be turning inside out. I heard myself scream.

Suddenly I awakened; it was very quiet. A police officer was standing over me. Then I saw a doctor. My body was mangled; I was saturated with blood. Pieces of jagged glass were sticking out all over. Strange that I couldn't feel anything.

Hey, don't pull that sheet over my head. I can't be dead. I'm only 17; I've got a date tonight. I am supposed to grow up and have a wonderful life. I haven't lived yet. I can't be

dead.

Later I was placed in a drawer. My folks had to identify me. Why did they have to see me like this? Why did I have to look at Mom's eyes when she faced the most terrible ordeal of her life? Dad suddenly looked like an old man. He told the man in charge, "Yes, he is my son."

The funeral was a weird experience. I saw all my relatives and friends walk toward the casket. They passed by, one by one, and looked at me with the saddest eyes I've ever seen. Some of my buddies were crying. A few of the girls touched my hand and sobbed as they walked away.

Please . . . somebody . . . wake me up! Get me out of here. I can't bear to see my Mom and Dad so broken up. My grandparents are so racked with grief they can barely walk. My brother and sisters are like zombies. They move like robots. In a daze, everybody! No one can believe this. And I can't believe it either.

Please don't bury me! I'm not dead! I have a lot of living to do! I want to laugh and run again. I want to sing and dance. Please don't put me in the ground. I promise if you give me just one more chance, God, I'll be the most careful driver in the whole world. All I want is one more chance. Please, God, I'm only 17!

From "American Home"

LaDonna Harris, President of Americans for Indian Opportunity and subject of profile in American Home magazine's July issue, will introduce Cree Indian painter Allen Sapp at the opening of his one-man show at Rowe House Gallery, 1834 Wisconsin Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. on July 1st, 6:30 p.m.

The Exhibition includes 37 acrylic paintings which depict the Cree Indians' day-to-day activities and attempts to cope with their hard life on the reservation. Ms. Harris is co-sponsoring Mr. Sapp. His other patrons include Robert Redford and Robert Goulet.

According to American Home's "Emerging Woman" column, Ms. Harris, a Comanche Indian and nationally known expert on Indian affairs, "travels throughout the country, often to small towns or isolated Indian reservations, bringing a message of hope and determination to demoralized tribes." The article notes that the American Indian's problems "seem almost overwhelming: the lowest standard of living, highest suicide and alcoholism rate, greatest unemployment rate in the country."

Ms. Harris says "one of the roots of the problem is that it's been the policy of the federal government, the church

and of education to bring the Indian community into the mainstream of American society, to acculturate Indian people so there wouldn't be any tribes left." Currently there are approximately 200 tribes.

"What was so destructive," says Ms. Harris in the article, "was that the government said, 'If you'll give up your tribal culture and identity and accept our larger society's ideas, then you will be accepted.'" She notes, however, that Indians weren't allowed to be homogenized in the great melting pot "because we were dark skinned. Now, because we are different, we can share something prouder with society. If you feel comfortable with who you are, that's the most motivating force that there is." She adds, "it's the same thing with the women of course."

Until recently, Ms. Harris was frequently consulted by political aides to her husband, former Oklahoma senator Fred R. Harris, on strategy in his bid for the democratic presidential convention.

Each month in the "Emerging Woman" column, American Home magazine profiles a woman who has done an outstanding job of fulfilling herself in all facets of her life.

HEW Funds

HEW has announced award of \$29,115,300 under the Emergency Medical Services Systems Act to 52 recipients in 34 States, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico.

The funds will assist State, regional, and community organizations to continue the operation of emergency medical services systems, or to improve and expand systems already established.

The announcement marks the third time grants have been awarded under the Emergency Medical Services Act of 1973 (P.L. 93-154). Since then, a total of \$49 million has been distributed to remedy emergency medical services deficiencies in communities across the country.

The EMSS Act was passed to provide financial support and technical assistance to encourage the improvement of emergency medical aid based on a regional health care delivery approach. To date, 300 emergency medical services regions have been designated by the States with 110 EMS systems established, and 125 in the planning phase.

Social Security Note

People who disagree with a decision on their social security or supplemental security (SSI) claim now have 60 days to request a reconsideration, according to John Fullerton, social security representative in Central Oregon.

The time limit was changed as a result of a recent amendment to the law, Fullerton said.

Formerly, SSI claimants had only 30 days to request reconsideration, while there was a 6-month time limit for asking for a review on a social security retirement, disability, survivors, or Medicare claim.

A reconsideration is the first step in the appeals process available to social security and SSI claimants.

"Claimants are notified in writing of any decision that affects their application, eligibility, or payment amount," Fullerton said. "They will have 60 days from the time they get the initial decision to ask for a reconsideration. The date of receipt is presumed to be 5 days after the notice is mailed unless you can show that you did not get it until later, or not at all."

People can file a request for reconsideration at any social security office. The nearest office in Central Oregon is at Bend. The request

must be in writing — in a letter or on a form available from the Bend office.

People who disagree with the reconsideration decision may ask for a hearing before a presiding officer of the Bureau of Hearings and Appeals of the Social Security Administration.

"Your request for a hearing must be filed within 60 days after you receive notice of the reconsideration decision," Fullerton said.

People may be represented by a qualified person of their choice at any stage of the claims or appeals process. "If you have any questions about the decision," Fullerton said, "get in touch with the office in Bend. The people there will be glad to help you in any way they can."



Photo by Cynthia Stowell



Spilyay Tymoo

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Timetable Set For Major Movie

"The Young Warrior", a major motion picture will be filmed here on the Warm Springs Reservation pending Council approval, Spilyay Tymoo learned. Shooting is scheduled to begin August 2.

Sites have already been chosen, and potential stars have been selected. According to Mel Lambert, those chosen for lead roles will not be notified until a few days before shooting begins.

Lambert explained that the movie is about the modern-day Indian, and in particular, about a young boy's struggle between the modern world he grew up in and the traditional world his grandfather wants him to know.

Those involved with the movie will be staying at Kah-Nee-Ta Lodge where reservations for forty have been made for 5 weeks. "The filming will probably take longer than 5 weeks, though," said Lambert. "It always does."

The movie is being made by the same people who did "One Flew Over The Cuckoo's Nest", an Academy Award winner. The director is Keith Merrill, and the producer is Sol Zaentz.

The writer is Cy Gomberg, and the photographer is Bruce Surtees, the same man who did the photography for "Towering Inferno" and "The Last Picture Show".

Lambert, who is acting

only in an advisory capacity, stressed that Indians will be hired to play the part of Indians. He said that up to 60 extras will be needed every day during the shooting and that local people will be chosen for those parts.

Lambert pointed out that the movie producers do not want to take anyone away from his or her job. They want to hire unemployed people when they can and give those looking for extra summer work a chance.

Further reports and photos of the filming here on the reservation will be forthcoming as the movie crews swing into action.