

For the Week of:

March 13 -
March 19, 2008

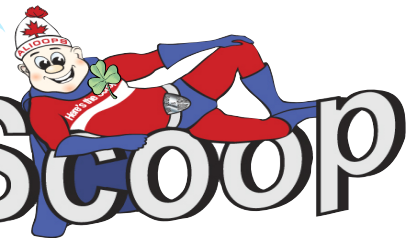
ISSUE #332

Weekly
Community
Magazine

~ Priceless ~

*** Luck 'o The Irish Issue ***

Here's the Scoop



No News is "Good" News!

Produced and distributed by ADvance Distribution this week to over 18,000 homes and businesses in Airdrie and surrounding areas.

Reach us at Heresthescoop@shaw.ca or call 948-5529

Just As Guilty

Al Jones

We are always in a hurry. We hide behind the anonymity of a motor vehicle to cast aside our kind, gentle natures and to allow the lawless, reckless, and savage in us to emerge. Car manufacturers advertise this in their T.V. commercials showing daring maneuvers and warning in letters too small to see "Professional stunt driver, do not attempt".

I received a call from an acquaintance the other day. Our sons played football together last season, and I always found him to be fairly laid back, but not today. He was fired up, ready to spit nails. He tells me of how he constantly sees people speed through the school zone where his kids go to school. He's talked to the school. He's talked to municipal enforcement and he talked with RCMP. Yet he sees it worse than ever lately. I remind him that, with warmer weather, people sometimes become complacent and forget to watch the speedometer. With frustration in his voice, he tells me that that is no excuse. I have to agree.

I think back to my childhood, I remember Mom driving us somewhere. Traffic was moving at a good clip, and Mom cursed under her breath as a large truck suddenly cut her off. As we approached a school, that same truck slammed on its brakes. Traffic came to an abrupt halt. Mom got out of the car. I think she originally was going to give that truck driver a piece of her mind. When she came back to the car though, she didn't say anything. She was as white as a ghost. I remember looking over at the truck driver. He was on his hands and knees on the sidewalk.....crying uncontrollably.

The police eventually came and took a statement from my Mom. Although I couldn't see beyond the truck in front of us, I knew that a kid had been hit by the truck in front of us. I also knew by the way my Mom was talking to the police, that the kid was dead. I remember seeing the child's mother arrive at the scene....crying in anguish and despair. The whole time, I would periodically glance over at the truck driver....still on his knees....still crying uncontrollably. I remember my Mom making

(Continued on page 2)

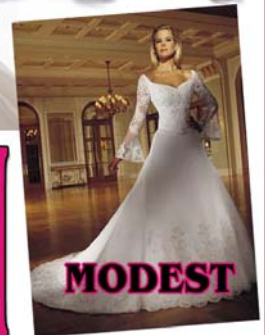
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(Continued from page 1)

me crouch down in the back seat as we drove away from the scene of that fatal accident. I guess she didn't want us kids to see the carnage she had just endured. I remember that day as if it were yesterday, not because of what I've described thus far to you, but because of what happened when we arrived home.

I was eavesdropping as I heard my Mom relay the afternoon's tragic events. She didn't know I was listening in. It took her a long time to tell Dad the whole story. She would describe a little bit, then cry a little bit, gather herself together and again describe a little bit, then cry a little bit.

She cried for the mother that had lost a child that day. She cried for the child as well. But mostly, she cried for the truck driver. I thought that strange at first. Why cry for the guy that actually took the life of the kid. I heard mom explain that the kid came out of no where. She had absolutely no idea that a child had been hit, until she got out of her car to see why the truck driver had slammed on his brakes. In other words folks, if the truck driver hadn't of cut in front of her a few blocks earlier, it would have been my Mom that had run over that kid instead. She cried out of guilt, relief and remorse...all rolled into one. She felt relief that it was someone else that took a life, and guilt and remorse for feeling relieved.

I'm as guilty as the next person of condemning people who cause deaths by driving carelessly. But we are all guilty of occasionally losing focus while driving. I think it's important that we recognize that. It's important to understand that speed limits are in place for a reason. Because children are unpredictable. And because we are all human. We can look at just about any accident scene and say to ourselves "that could have been me".

Spring is in the air folks. It's easy to day dream. Please watch your speedometer when going through residential and school zones.

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Virtue of the Week

Joyfulness

Joyfulness is an inner sense of peace and happiness. You appreciate the gifts each day brings. Without joyfulness, when the fun stops our happiness stops. Joy can carry us through the hard times even when we are feeling very sad. Joy gives us wings.

You are practicing joyfulness when you:

- Look inside for happiness.
- Enjoy whatever you are doing.
- Feel good about doing what is right.
- Find creative ways to enjoy your time.
- Have a good sense of humour.
- Feel an inner peace even when things are tough.

Affirmation

I am thankful for the joy I feel inside.
I enjoy my work and my play.
I appreciate the gifts this day holds for me.

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