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Westlake High student's video aims to save teens' lives on the road. Page B1

## Westlake sophomore aims video at his peers

Student who lost 2 of his schoolmates wants to slow teens who drive too fast

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A car careens off the road and barrels toward a tree. Someone screams; it's hard to understand the words.

In a 30-second television spot created by Westlake High School sophomore Jordan Miller, it's clear this isn't just another public service announcement.

This isn't your father telling you to slow down. This isn't your mother warning you against driving drunk.

This is a kid telling other kids how it is: Car crashes are the number one killer of teens. Slow down.

It doesn't matter that Jordan, 15, doesn't have a driver's license yet. He knows what speed on the road can do to teen-agers. In January, two of his schoolmates, Kenneth Glass and Jordan Bass, died when their car crashed into a wall. Law enforcement officials estimated the car was traveling at 106 mph before the accident.

"My goal is just to save one life, make somebody think twice," said Jordan, who created the first of three public service announcements under development by Regenerate, a local nonprofit group. "That would be worth it to me."

Formed shortly after the deaths of Bass and Glass by Jordan's dad, David Miller, and concerned parent Mark Barker, Regenerate wants to educate teens about the hazards of reckless driving.

"Every time one of these kids dies, it's like stabbing us in the heart," said Barker. "But kids don't listen to adults. So we felt that the only way to reach kids is through kids ... youth speaking to youth."

The public service announcements, as well as two planned documentaries, will be created by teens, Barker said. He and Miller will work to distribute the materials to schools and TV stations.

Jordan, who expects to take a driving test for his license after his July 23 birthday, didn't want his PSA to resemble any of the instruction films he watched in driver's education classes.

logon



To view the Regenerate public service announcement, log on to InsideVC.com and look for the Windows Media link attached to this story at [www.insidevc.com](http://www.insidevc.com).



Photos by Joseph A. Garcia / Star staff



Westlake High School sophomore Jordan Miller, 15, above, is the director of the first public service announcement video for Regenerate, a nonprofit organization that addresses teen injuries and fatalities in car crashes. At left, Jordan is joined by the group's co-founders Mark Barker, left, and David Miller. They say the PSA will be distributed to schools and TV stations.

### VIDEO from B1

"Those videos are just nonsense. They were incredibly boring," said Jordan, who has been creating films since he was 13. Three of his films played at X-Dance, an off-shoot of the Sundance Film Festival. Jordan said he hopes his PSAs will "tell teens why they want to say no, not just to say no."

In his untitled 30-second spot, the phrase "No. 1 teen food" dances to hard-core music against a black background, quickly changing to a scene of a very short man in a greasy apron spooning sauce over pizza dough. "No. 1 teen activity" dances and fades into a boy on a skateboard, who crashes and hits the pavement hard. "No. 1 teen killer" dances before the screen and cuts to the driver's view from a car, which seems headed for a tree. A singer from the band Ember screams "fractured" as the words

"car accidents" appears.

Barker and Miller don't expect adults to like the PSA's edgy tone.

"It's important that it's not preachy," said Miller. "It's funny, it's exciting and extreme and then it hits you with the message."

A grant from the city of Thousand Oaks will help get the message out, according to Barker and Miller. In March, the council gave the group \$10,000 for production costs and pledged its help to distribute the first PSA to government access channels in California.

"It's a fairly inexpensive way for us to share the message, which is teens need to be careful," said Deputy City Manager Jim Friedl.

Filming for the second public service announcement, directed by 14-year-old Ben Radler, who lives in the Thousand Oaks area, begins June 19 at a local cemetery. A portion of the PSA, adapted from "Dead at 17," a letter

printed in Ann Landers' column, will be shot on Moorpark Road.

Once work is finished on the three PSAs and two 3- to 5-minute documentaries, Regenerate's teen-age members will point their cameras at other issues affecting their peers — suicide, drugs, alcohol and violence.

"The idea is to make it very personal to youth. Their feeling is that it's not going to happen to me; I'm invincible," Barker said. "We need to show them they're not."

— For information about Regenerate, call (805) 495-9709.

See VIDEO on B2

Student's TV spot focuses on teen car crash deaths