

You have the right?

(The right to die unnecessarily.)

By Derek Cormier
 We all have rights. Some argue the point, but in truth, there is no denying it. Many people sit back and do nothing until their rights are threatened, and when they are, all hell breaks loose. A classic example would be when the government tries to mandate the use of seatbelts. And so the call to arms, the battle is on, we will not let the government force us to protect ourselves. Seatbelts, when worn properly, do protect the occupants of the motor vehicle. In most severe injuries.

This fact hit close to home over the past weekend when a faculty member and a student, on their way to New Brunswick to attend a meeting, accidentally drove off the road and over a thirty foot embankment. The car rolled five times, first end over end and then side over side, before coming to rest.

The result of the accident was a totalled car, and minor injuries for the two occupants.

They were lucky that the accident occurred in New Brunswick. Seatbelt laws

there require all passengers (with certain exclusions) to buckle up.

It was only because of this law that they were wearing seatbelts, and had they not been wearing seatbelts, it would have meant almost certain death.

Outside Amherst, Nova Scotia, a van carrying hockey players from a tournament collided with the rear end of a tractor-trailer.

At the time of this article, the death toll was at four. None of the occupants of the van had been wearing seatbelts.

It is possible that, of those that died, none might have survived even if they had been wearing seatbelts, but this is highly unlikely.

People are always saying that seatbelts save lives, but they still continue not to wear them. It has become necessary to infringe on the rights of the people so that they may live and enjoy the other rights and freedoms they still maintain.

Many arguments have been

given against seatbelts. They are uncomfortable, awkward and cumbersome, they can hold the passenger inside the car, preventing escape, they can do damage to the passenger's internal organs and much more.

The truth of the matter is that given time, most people become used to seatbelts (even to the point that they feel too insecure to drive without them).

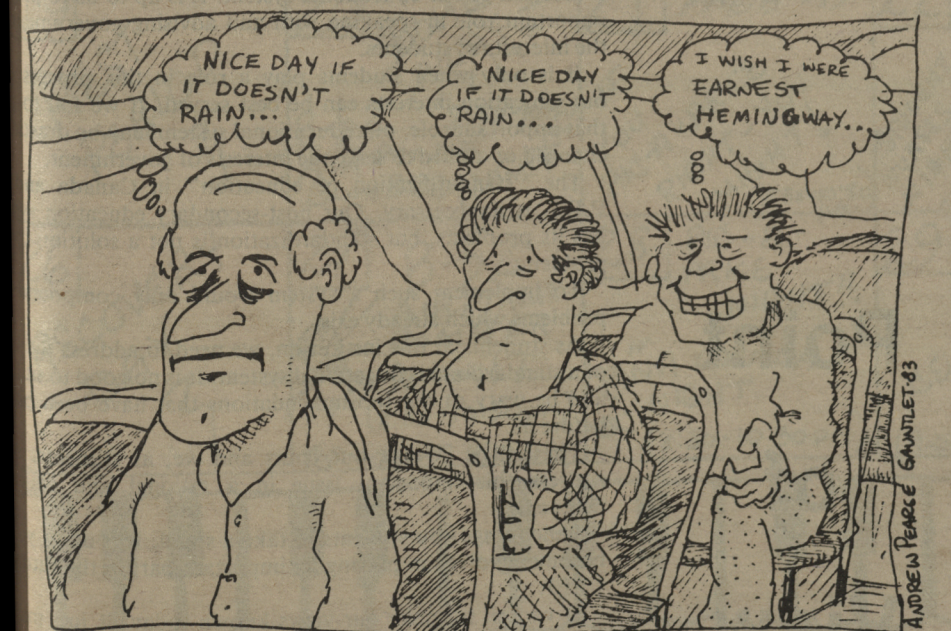
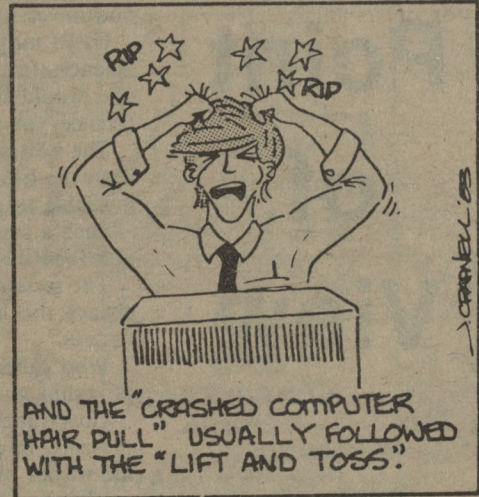
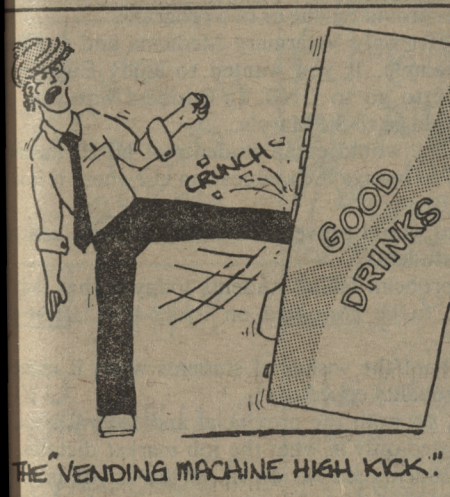
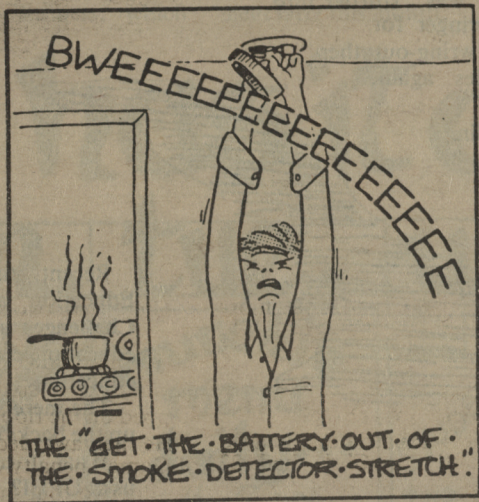
Most important is that time after time, there is nothing that can prevent serious injury more effectively in a car than a properly worn seatbelt.

The statistics are there. What will it take before people decide that it is time to buckle up, a near miss, or even worse, a serious injury or death?

The only choice is to buckle up voluntarily, before the right is taken away.

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