

Rosa Jackson

Seatbelt excuses silly



Those who oppose seatbelt legislation come up with a variety of creative, if implausible excuses for not using the dreaded restraining devices; anything from "it's too much trouble" to "if you have large breasts, they really hurt!"

Now that the use of seatbelts is no longer mandatory, at least for the time being, we will no doubt see a rise in

serious injuries due to people refusing, or neglecting, to take adequate precautions while driving or riding in vehicles.

There are several types of people who don't wear seatbelts: those who believe that seatbelts in some way restrict their freedom, those who just can't be bothered, those who don't think accidents will happen to them, and those who are afraid of injuries caused by seatbelts.

Unless there is something drastically wrong with your seatbelt, it will not restrict your movement in any significant way. How much do you need to move while you're driving, anyway? If you have to reach for something in the back seat as you're driving down Jasper Avenue, chances are you're going to have an accident; and if you're not wearing a seatbelt, you're likely to get hurt. How much freedom of movement would you have in a wheelchair?

People who think seatbelts are too much trouble truly need to be protected from their own stupidity. It takes no more than two seconds to put on or take off a

seatbelt. Nobody's time is so precious that they can't afford two seconds. You'd waste a lot more time lying in a hospital bed recovering from your injuries.

No matter how good a driver you are, there's always a possibility that you'll get into an accident; it might be caused by someone else. And as for the argument, "I might get hurt *because* I'm wearing a seatbelt," that's completely illogical. If you're at all worried about the risk of injury, wouldn't it make sense to go for the better odds?

Finally, it can't be argued that you're only harming yourself by not wearing a seatbelt. Over the weekend, a woman was killed as a result of not wearing a seatbelt while her two children, who were strapped in, survived; now they are left without a mother. Also, medical expenses increase for everybody due to those who don't wear seatbelts.

I can only hope that the government will re-introduce seatbelt legislation; the threat of a \$25 fine is far more effective in reducing injuries than trying to make people listen to reason.

Opinion

US accomplishments endless

Re: US freedom preferable (Feb. 7)
Dear Bill Graham:

Thank you for your intelligent February 7 rebuttal of the Smathers column. Your defense of good old Uncle Sam put Mr. Smathers and the other ungrateful leftists of his ilk in their place.

I offer you strict assurances that you at no point sounded in the least bit arrogant (as you had earnestly feared that you would). Your listing of some of the United States' benevolent global political activities was laudable but too modest; indeed you neglected to mention many of America's other great feats: baseball, milkshakes, television, Love Canal, slavery, new improved Coke, Manifest Destiny, crack, the National Rifle Association, agent orange, Sean Penn, triple-X home videos (in which triple penetration is *de rigueur*), Jim and Tammy Bakker, pet rocks, pet cemeteries, lowered pH levels in our rain,...

Jon Romalo
Science IV

Disenchantment disdained

Re: Reader disillusioned (Feb. 7)

A rigged enterprise photo! Such corruption in the dark recesses of *The Gateway*! Not to mention "intellectual dishonesty." It's amazing that this trivial incident has disenchanting you so. What are you going to do when you find out how the country is run? Or the world? Good thing you're in "Arts Forever," because if you ever get out the shock will kill you!

Elaine Ostry
Arts IV

P.S. It doesn't follow that pretend marshmallow roasters must be "pseudo-university students."

Reader revolt

Re: Panda revolt (Feb. 7/89)

This letter is not so much concerned with the rumor mill printed on the first page of the Sports section. Despite the fact that the article does not appear to contain any substantiated facts, I don't believe it warrants the time necessary to discuss responsible journalism.

What I am disappointed with is the lack of coverage of the very team that is the object of Randal's article. The Panda volleyball team is ranked seventh in Canada but you have to search to find any attention paid to their play or their players. The volleyball matches draw about as many fans in a season as football does, yet

the football team gets much more press.

Considering that the Pandas were playing at the gym last weekend the three sentences reported about the matches were nondescript, misleading and inadequate. On Saturday night, the Pandas played as well as they have all year. Had they got a few breaks they could have easily taken the match to four or five games with the more experienced Vikettes. I hope that more positive attention could be given to one of this University's top competitive teams, rather than printing unverified gossip.

John McLeod
Business IV

Triple E regressive

Re: Senate Reform worth working for (Feb. 7)

I am not a cynic, but I am skeptical of what Mr. Thompson considers to be "a good goal to shoot for" with regards to Senate Reform. Although Senate Reform in Canada may be long overdue, the Triple E Senate — equal, elected, and effective — is hardly a solution to the problem. Indeed, Canada already has a Triple E Senate — effeminate, enigmatic, and expendable. And, it would seem to me that any proposals for Senate Reform should, at least, not exacerbate the present situation.

The Triple E Senate proposal would clearly be a step backwards for Canadian government. First, it would create a rival House to the democratically elected House of Commons, which would only slow down the already overworked central government. Second, any rival body to the House of Commons would take away the accountability Canadians now hold over government.

In the United States one can see the consequences of a powerful senate. "Vote-trading" among senators and congressmen shifts the priorities of the US federal government to specific regions rather than keeping government concentrated on legislation that will benefit the entire country; for example, ridiculous engineering fiascos like the Tombigbee development are supported by the US government. Yet the American public is unable to hold any particular branch of government responsible.

In the Triple E Senate, Mr. Thompson hopes for better regional representation. Is he unaware of the federal-provincial office? There is also a minister of the federal cabinet in charge of vital federal-provincial relations. And even cabinet appointments are traditionally based on representation for all regions of Canada, where possible. Furthermore, Mr. Mulroney's move to executive federalism with the Meech Lake Accord

ensures First Ministers' conferences are held regularly, so that provincial concerns may be voiced.

I think that the definition of redundant in any Canadian dictionary should read "see Canadian Senate." To those of you somewhat confused by all the rhetoric on Senate Reform, you need only look at the federal NDP proposal: abolition of the Senate. Give the senators their fat pensions and let Canada's democratically elected government get on with governing, for I am dying to hold Mr. Mulroney accountable in 1992 for the ramifications of his Free Trade deal. Surely even you Tories so bent on political expediency should be able to relate to a move towards more efficiency in the federal government!

James Kosowan
U of A New Democrats
President



Buddy bashed

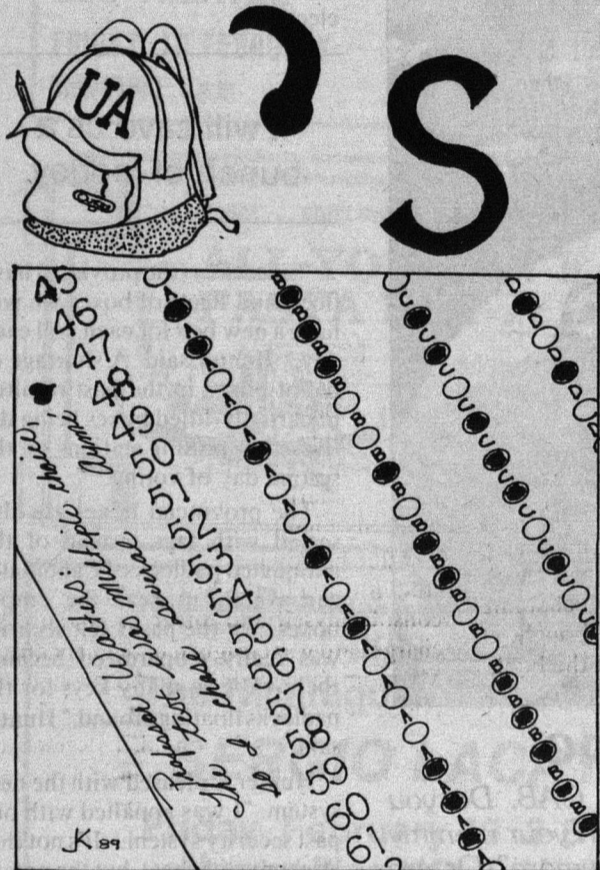
Re: Baich a butt-pirate (Feb. 7)
"Arg! Yee Scurvy Scum Dogs!!"

I aim to question the validity of the collective literary competence of my slungar cronies. I'll start with Mr. Gary (I only wear black) Godziuk (Arts IV) and Miss Jill (they call me a spaz) Cheezy. As I recall, my two fellow film goers that evening also found *Accidental Tourist* to be of a sleepy nature. To quote Mr. Godziuk (Arts IV), "Boy, that sucked!!" And both were in full support of my graphic review. Little did I suspect that they would lie to the world, maliciously turn on their buddy, slander his name, call him wicked things, and inflict damaging psychological torment.

As for the rest, Miss Jodi Queringessier, Charlie (I'm worth millions, so look up to me peasant) Vethan, and Miss Cori Girl, "NEVER" to this day, saw the movie in question. So I challenge their condemning cogitations and consider them void of merit.

As for the slanderous name addressed to me by Mr. Charlie Vethan, well... perhaps when I was Vethan's age I might have reacted that way too!!

Eric Baich
Arts III



ARTSIE GETS A '9'

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