

Ambulances
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Mr. Kilburn also talked about the new emergency number Fredericton is getting. "We have one of the best communications systems in the country," he commented, "but the local communities won't use it. They all want their own numbers. They figure Frederic-

ton is trying to take over Marysville or Barker's Point when we try to get them to adopt our police and fire department numbers. With the emergency number 911, much delay and confusion will be avoided. The number will be connected to a panel of five operators who will connect the caller immediately with the department he is calling - fire, police, or the

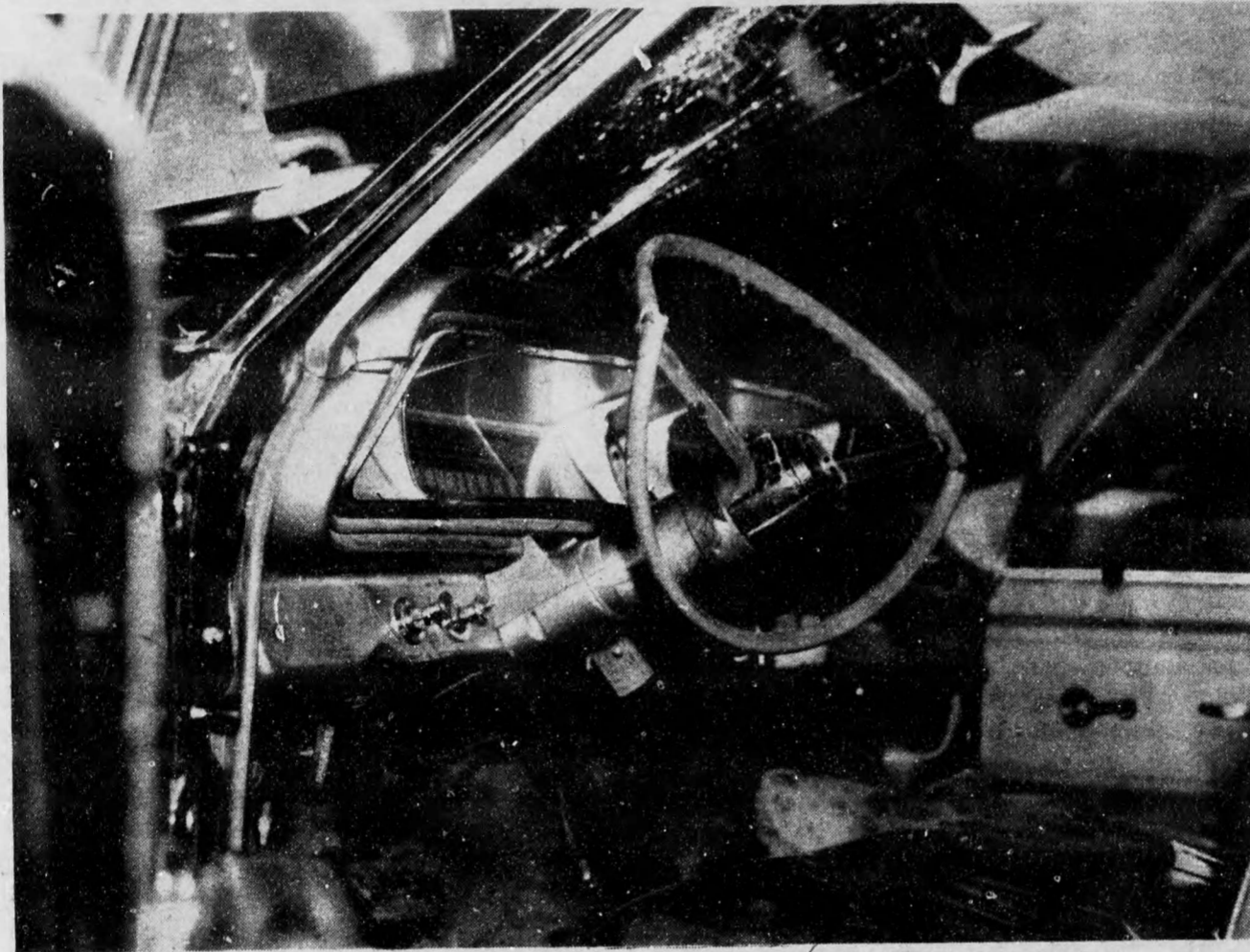
ambulance. If the call is confusing, they can kick on a tape recorder and record the message."

Kilburn defended the ambulances which seem always to arrive unnecessarily late at the scenes of accidents. "When the ambulance driver gets a call," he said, "he records his time leaving and arriving. It is usually only half of the criticized time. Time goes fast for the accident victims. It is awful easy to criticize. The only people who complain are those who figure they need an ambulance bad and it doesn't get there when they want it."

The ambulance service needs more ambulance vehicles, more drivers, and radio equipment in the cars if it is to be improved. These things cost money, and it doesn't seem likely that either the municipal government, presently picking up the deficit of the service nor the provincial government, will be willing to pick up the tab. People keep crying for improved services, but none of them want to foot the bill.

UNB students, as residents of the Fredericton community, are also concerned about the provision of ambulance services, or the lack of them.

If an accident were to occur on campus, it might take some time before a policeman or doctor could be located to call for an ambulance. The students can't call for one themselves - the call might be looked upon as another prank. And the fifteen or twenty minutes it would take for an ambulance to arrive on campus might be too late for someone with a spurting artery. Maybe we will have to seek our own solution, and form our own volunteer ambulance service.



Gleason photo

Obviously the driver of this car hit the steering wheel and windshield with considerable force. Let's hope the ambulance wasn't in Saint John when this accident occurred.

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record

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