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Our VIEW

Buckle up for safety

Sole crash survivor was wearing seat belt

This weekend, four adults and one child were killed in a traffic accident in Nebraska City. A married couple from Anchorage, Alaska, were in the pickup that collided with a station wagon in which three men and the 4-year-old were riding.

When the vehicles collided, all four station wagon passengers and the man in the pickup were thrown from the vehicles. They all died as a result of their injuries.

The only survivor was the woman from Anchorage.

She was only one wearing her seat belt.

Seat belts, while they can be slightly inconvenient and uncomfortable, save lives. They are the easiest way to safeguard yourself in an accident.

It takes only a second to pull the belt across your chest and lap. It takes only a second to adjust the belt to your comfort level. It takes only a second to better ensure your chances of surviving an accident.

Not only is buckling up a measure of safety, it's also Nebraska's law. If you are pulled over for another infraction and you aren't buckled up, and you can be ticketed and fined \$21.

That amount seems a small price to pay to save your life.

Using seat belts could also make you a safer driver. By realizing that vehicles can be dangerous, and buckling up, you can recognize your own need to be a safer driver.

Of course, there are times when seat belts don't work. Traffic accidents kill, and sometimes are so severe that the belt won't help.

So many people reason, "I won't wear my seat belt, because I want to be able to get out of the car in case of an accident."

They are the fools. More often than not, seat belts prevent drivers and passengers from flying out of the car in a collision.

Instead of being trapped, where rescue workers can cut them out, they're lying dead on the pavement after being thrown 30 yards.

But seat belts are the number one means of protection we have as drivers. People speed. People run red lights. People don't look both ways when approaching an intersection.

And because we can't always rely on the other driver to be as safe as we are, we must rely on ourselves for protection.

This weekend, a 4-year-old boy lost his life. Four adults with families and friends and lives died, too. Those lives may have been saved had they only been strapped in.

Seat belts saved one woman on a Nebraska road this weekend, and countless others each year.

Next time you're ready to hit the road, take a second to think about what could happen. You never know when an accident is waiting to happen. In the time it takes to pop in a compact disc or tune in the radio station, you could take a small step to ensure a safe ride to your destination.

Buckle up.

Haney's VIEW



Smoking sissies

Pink cigs may clear air of debonair



TODD BRAUCH is a freshman news-editorial major and a Daily Nebraskan columnist.

Recently the State of Florida, along with 39 other states, filed lawsuit against the tobacco companies of America for a mere \$11.3 billion. Their mission? To recover money spent treating smokers.

I may be wrong, but I always thought cigarettes were bad. I didn't need a surgeon general's warning or an anti-smoking campaign to tell me "cancer-sticks" are unhealthy. It was just common knowledge such as fire is hot, moms are always annoying, and you never find the shirt you really like in your size.

Some of the trials that are being waged against cigarette pushers claim that the smoker or self-portrayed victim never had any clue that smoking 4 1/2 packs a day for 12 years could do any harm. You would think that the morning ritual of hacking up chunks of phlegm the size of cue balls would be some sort of hint.

This is something my best friend does every morning, evening and sometimes just for fun, yet he knows if he doesn't quit, he will die. A fact he

readily admits while smoking. It's his fault, he started so he has to end it. Although it would be amazing to see how his lung lining resembles the pot holes on a New York street.

The real way to get people to quit smoking is not by telling them that they are going to die. Where's the fun in that? You must take a radical approach, something that has never been tried or even considered. I have developed that plan. I call it "Operation Bunny Slippers."

Most people start smoking because it looks cool. There's something about a person standing by a fence post, wind blowing the delicate strands of their hair. They glance around and take a couple puffs of a cig. Just calm and cool. It looks damn good.

Imagine that same scenario, but the cigarette is not a common cigarette, it just happens to be PINK. It just doesn't look right. It kind of makes the stud smoke-model look like a sissy. If you take the glamour out of smoking it would not be as popular.

Operation Bunny Slippers runs like this:

The government mandates all cigarettes sold in America to be pink. All cigarette names would have to be changed to fit the cigarette. Marlboro would be Bunny Tails. Camel would be Chickies, all other names would be converted to all those cute little elements that make Easter so nauseating. Advertising would be the same and as vigorous as it is now.

In turn, the government and states back off the thousands of lawsuits they're trying against the tobacco com-

panies.

In theory, smokers would be irritated and wouldn't want to be caught smoking something pink. Although the deprivation may cause them to become extremely agitated and go on a killing spree. I would probably be the first victim. Hmm... Maybe this is not a great idea. It's bad. Totally wrong, do not even read this. Cigarettes should be less expensive. There should be smoking in all restaurants and public buildings.

Personally I don't care who smokes and who doesn't, I just don't want to see my tax money spent fighting frivolous lawsuits. The money should be used here at home, filling potholes. Just wait until winter, the asphalt magically transforms into Swiss cheese.



TERRANCE ROBINSON/DN

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