



# TOT TALK

Every regular reader of The Mirror knows that we have published quite a few editorials, and ads at our own expense, urging motorists to drive with extra special care for the sake of children in their path.

We can only hope that such

reminders, especially during the school year, are worthwhile. If they prevent so much as a single tragedy, be it major or minor--and of course we'll never know--they will have served their purpose.

However, our concern doesn't end there. What disturbs us just as much as reckless motorists are reckless youngsters on bicycles, who invite disaster. Increasingly, they seem to show little regard for the danger existing on our busy streets.

We have heard many complaints from motorists, and the complaints are justified. Time and again, local children narrowly escape death or serious injury when they, not the motorist are at fault.

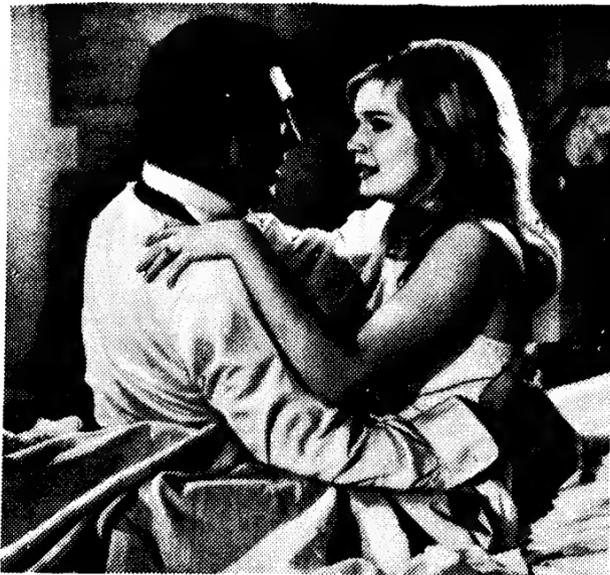
Usually, the child isn't frightened by the occurrence, while the driver involved is literally scared out of his or her wits. Those of you who have had the unpleasant experience know what we mean.

And so to every parent whose child has a bicycle, or will eventually have one, we suggest a strong safety program for the younger members of your family. Harp on careful bike riding, and don't hesitate to punish your offspring when they ignore your warnings.

If you see someone else's child riding dangerously, and recognize the youngster at fault, report the matter to his parents. If they resent your doing so, they won't measure up as the right kind of mothers and fathers.

A reckless child not only endangers his own life and limbs, but endangers the lives of motorists who may collide with another automobile in a frantic effort to avoid the daring juvenile.

Humility, like darkness, reveals the heavenly lights.--Thoreau



Dean Martin and Yvette Mimieux carry the central romantic roles in the Mirisch-Claude Panavision production for United Artists release "Toys in the Attic," screen version of the Lillian Heilman award-winning play, opening Sunday at the Tryon Theatre.

Sense shines with a double lustre when set in humility.--William Penn

Success doesn't happen. It is organized, pre-empted, captured by concentrated common sense!--Frances E. Willard

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Ask any New Bern housewife what, in her opinion, is the cooking odor that lingers longest in a house, and you'll probably get one of two answers. A general poll would show fish and collards (not cooked together, of course) leading by a wide margin.

But, if you want our opinion, the kitchen odor that travels the greatest distance is undoubtedly the splendid aroma of bacon frying in an iron skillet. Arise early, or even stay in bed, and you can easily identify the neighboring homes where bacon is on the stove.

One of the most ridiculous but entertaining TV commercials to ever flash on our screen is the one displaying a pig exhibiting joy because he is--or part of him--destined to become a certain brand of bacon. If you were a pig, basking in the sun and feasting on shelled corn, would you be happily contemplating such a fate?

Unfortunately, and this applies to a lot of humans too, a pig never reaches high esteem until after he is dead. Folks who wouldn't get near him when he is wading around in the mud of an often ill-kept sty are the first to wax enthusiastic over the prospect of coming into close proximity with him when he is deceased.

Considering what's in store for him in due season, wouldn't it be fairer if we mortals honored him with respect, if not downright affection? Epitaphs are rather futile. Besides the nearest thing to an epitaph that a pig ever gets is a twitch of the nostrils in glorious anticipation, and a smack of appreciation as the first crunchy bite

of crisp bacon is sampled. Cows and chickens and turkeys, not to mention the occasional goose, are tolerated. Only the lowly pig, better behaved than some of the humans who belittle him, gets treated with utter disdain and dislike. Remind us to say, "Good morning," to the next live pig we meet.

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