

The four most common mistakes bicycle riders make



RIGHT: Bicycle riders, like motorists, must drive on the left side of the road.

Any of the four most common mistakes bicycle riders make on the road can lead to serious injury or death, says Halton Region Police.

The first mistake is riding on the wrong side of the road. Police say to their dismay, that many parents tell their children to ride facing traffic. However, this is unsafe and hazardous to both the cyclists and car drivers.

Falling to stop at stop signs is another mistake made by bicyclists, say police. Motorists, who themselves are expected to stop at all stop signs even if no traffic approaches on the cross street, have the right of way on streets without stop signs. Not only is a cyclist who rides through a stop sign in the

wrong, he or she also courts injury.

Riding double is another dangerous activity, say police. On a single rider bicycle, which most are, the presence of another person both obstructs view and puts the bicycle off balance. The only bicycles which can safely carry two persons are bicycles built for two.

The fourth and perhaps most dangerous thing cyclists do is ride at night without a white light at the front of the bicycle and a red reflector at the rear, say police.

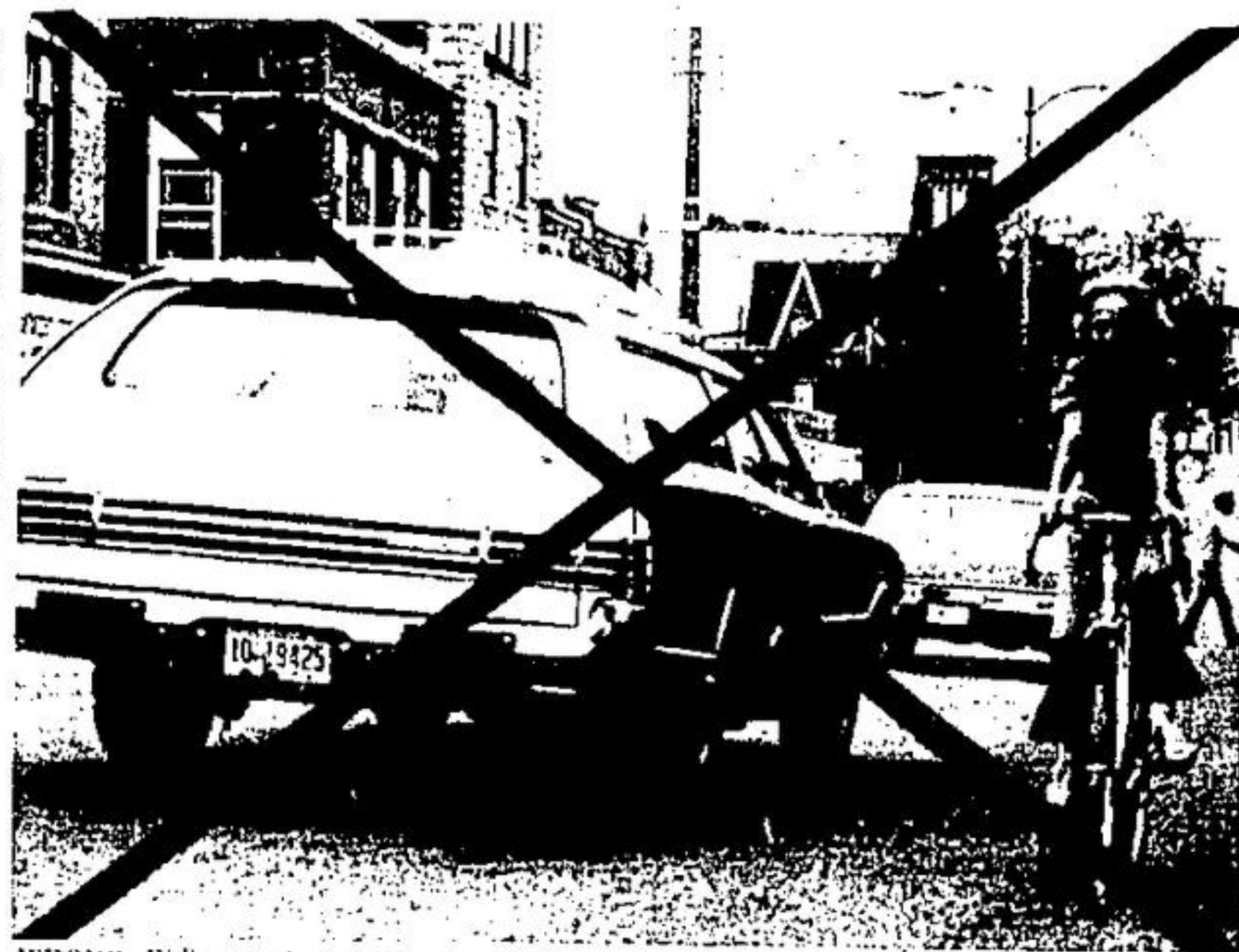
It only takes a few seconds for a motorist at night to travel the distance the headlights illuminate and if a bicyclist with or without front and rear

lights is not at the side of the road, an unfortunate mishap may occur.

Halton police in Georgetown also point out that there is a doubly dangerous manoeuvre some cyclists make at the intersection of Main Street and Maple Avenue.

Police say that instead of turning left onto Maple Avenue from the centre lane of Main Street, some bicyclists are taking the feeder lane that motorists use in turning right onto Main Street from Maple Avenue. This lane is narrow and partly obscured by shrubs and puts the cyclist facing traffic again.

In collision with a car or truck, cyclists invariably come out second best.



WRONG: Riding against traffic is wrong.

The Herald would like to thank Rick Knight, 13, and Tim Field, 13, for their assistance in preparing this feature on bicycle safety.



RIGHT: Stop at all stop signs.



WRONG: Riding through a stop sign without stopping is wrong and can lead to serious injury.



RIGHT: One rider per bike unless it's a bicycle built for two.



WRONG: Riding double is unsafe.



AT NIGHT in the glare of approaching headlights both bicycle riders stand out but if they were back another 100 feet, all a driver would see is the light on the bike at the right. He may not notice the rider on the left until it is too late to avoid a collision.

Sheridan College seeks student housing

OAKVILLE—Sheridan College is seeking accommodation for students enrolling this fall at the Brampton and Oakville campuses.

Officials say they require 500 more places on top of the 200 rooms, apartments and townhouses already committed.

"Response from the community is always slow at this

time of the year, but we expect it will pick up closer to September," Ross McEwen, coordinator of student services said. "Last year the number of students and the number of places available were proportionate and we are hoping for the same this year."

Advertising in local newspapers supplemented notices sent to previous landlords and landladies who

rented accommodation to Sheridan students.

Students are responsible for securing their own accommodation and the college is not responsible for any problems which might arise between student and landlord. Information on housing can be obtained from the student service department, Oakville, or by calling 845-9430 extensions 344 and 169.

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