

ORGAN DONORS

By Dr. Gizmo Doodad

I'm sure you have heard the term Organ Donors applied to motorcycle riders. This expression was first used by hospital emergency room personnel to classify motorcyclists involved in a traffic accident. The theory of the Organ Donor moniker is that the dumb, dead, bike rider's body parts can be used to prolong the lives of more useful people. The problem here is that the aforementioned useful person just could be that cell phone using citizen who ran you over.

I have never seen a motorcyclist use a cell phone while riding but I sure as hell have seen thousands of motorists using handsets while operating a motor vehicle. The other day, while out for a putt, I was tooling down Main Street at the posted speed limit. Whilst I was on said putt I glanced in my rear view mirror to see that the person behind me was gabbing away on their beloved cell. The driver held the cell in one hand and waved the other hand wildly in the air to make some insane point, I suppose. And yes, of course, the individual was driving a 6,000 pound SUV and tailgating me and did not seem to be looking at the road. This, by the way, is what prompted me to write this column.

You can be stopped and issued a ticket in a number of states for not wearing a helmet when riding a motorcycle. Most states also have a seat belt law that requires the occupants of a four wheeled vehicle to wear seat belts. If the operator of a vehicle fails to abide by these rules he, or she, is putting only themselves at risk. Unless, of course, they are involved in a crash and their dead carcass is propelled forward and strikes an innocent victim. Though this is unlikely, I imagine, it could happen.

Many states have conducted studies on persons using cell phones while driving a 4-wheeled vehicle. The joint conclusion of all the states and the federal government studies is that a person is at least 200% more likely to have an accident while using a cell phone. Not wearing a helmet or a seatbelt increases the accident rate by 0%. What's my point? I'm glad you asked. Most politicians and lawmakers don't ride motorcycles but they do use cell phones.

Under pressure from civic groups and good old common sense my home state of New Jersey passed legislation effective on July 1 of 2004 making it illegal to use a handheld cell phone while driving a vehicle. How here is the oxymoron and I'll paraphrase at this point since I don't the legalese version of the law in front of me. It is illegal for a person to operate a motor vehicle while chatting on a handheld cell phone. However, said person can not be stopped by a police officer and cited for the offence. The offender must be stopped for some other offence at which time, if they are still dopy enough to be talking on the phone, they can be cited for the handset use.

I have observed no less of hand held cell phones from my fellow motorists since this inane law was put on the books. Most drivers probably aren't even aware that such a law exists. People are still driving around at 70 mph with one hand on the receiver while the other arm flails through the air trying to make some futile point.

I'm sure that this will come as no surprise to you no matter what your financial situation is. Tax laws and civil laws that benefit the wealthy have been with us since the beginning of governments. The ruling class has always had the habit of passing legislation that will benefit them. One thing that I have observed over the years is that the chief function of government, whether, federal, state or especially municipal, seems to be separating citizens from their hard earned money. Not too long ago in South Jersey community a man stopped at a convenience store. The man parked in the lot and left the motor running. The vehicle was stolen but was soon recovered. When the car thief was tried he was found guilty and fined \$1,100. Now get this, the judge also fine the owner of the vehicle \$3,000 for leaving his car idling.

Another practice I have noticed is that a number of towns require a cited individual to make a mandatory court appearance for a relatively minor traffic infraction. Why? So that judicial system to incur by making his appearance mandatory. What? And you say this is America. Look at the bright side. It's better than a firing squad, caning or getting a hand cut off.

I am by no means a socialist and I'm not calling for the proletariat (working class) to rise up and slaughter the bourgeois (upper class) pigs. Anarchy has never solved any countries social problems. Aside from which, plenty of poor people are also blaring away on cell phone while driving their well used, second-hand automobiles.

I am not asking for the impossible; for I realize that war, taxes and poverty will go on forever. What I am asking for is nothing more than good old common sense. Mr American Lawmaker let us prohibit the use of handheld cell phone while driving a motor vehicle. Public education of this law through the use of road signs would inform drivers that such a law exists. This regulation will save thousands of lives and prevent countless injuries.

You can direct your point of view on this subject to drgdoodad@yahoo.com

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