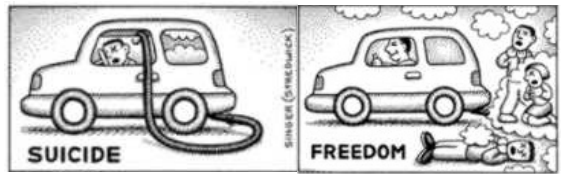
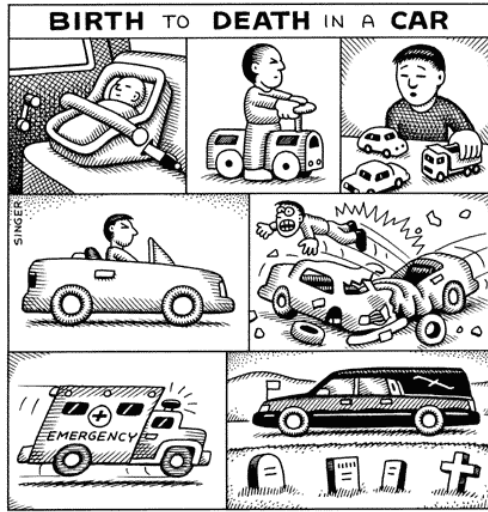
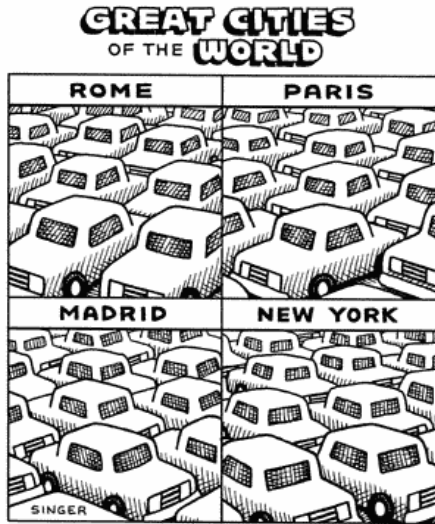
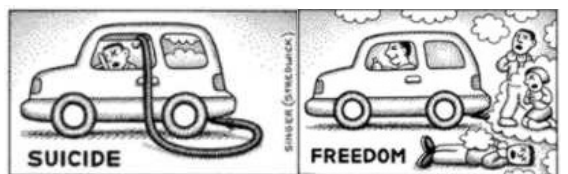
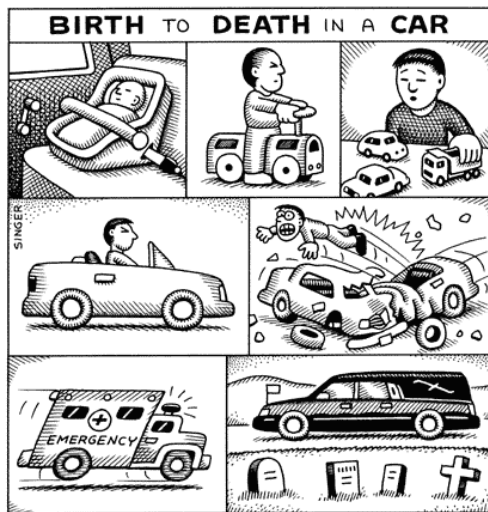
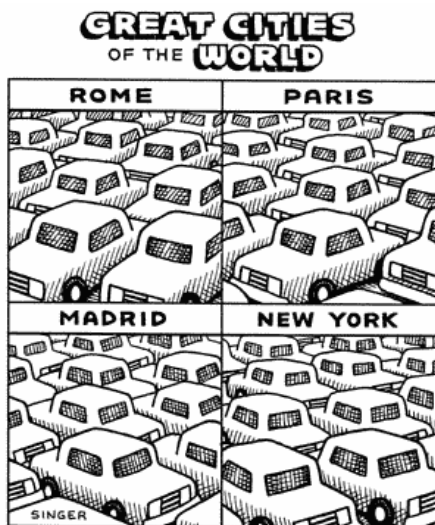


CAR SHOW COMICS!



CAR SHOW COMICS!



Chicago Auto Show Fact Sheet

The word “big” comes to mind when you think about the Chicago Auto Show. But do you know what the biggest cause of death for America’s children is? It’s not drugs, or suicide, or abuse: it’s cars. Yes, automobile crashes are the number one killer of children and young adults in the U.S. According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, “In 2002, motor vehicle traffic crashes were the leading cause of death for every age 3 through 33. Because of the young lives consumed, motor vehicle traffic crashes ranked 3rd in terms of the years of life lost, i.e., the number of remaining years that the person is expected to live had they not died, behind only cancer and diseases of the heart.”¹

According to the American Lung Association, children in Chicago suffer asthma hospitalization rates nearly twice the national average, as automobile emissions continue to be the major contributor to our city’s poor air quality.² And it’s not just children: over 40,000 Americans are killed by cars every year, and many more are injured.³

The best thing we can do to help ourselves and our children is to reduce the number of cars on the roads. Unfortunately, Chicago is headed in the wrong direction. While the automobile and oil industries reap windfalls, basic transit services in Chicago are in danger of being cut or eliminated. Meanwhile, Chicago’s drivers waste millions of hours stuck in traffic gridlock each year. And building more roads isn’t the answer: more roads only lead to more cars.⁴

But what can we do? Don’t we need our cars to get around, to take our kids to school, to the doctor, to soccer practice? Certainly the automobile and oil industries want us to think so. But we don’t have to be dependent on automobiles. In fact, Chicago is a great place to live car-free or car-light. We can build communities where children can walk or bike to school, where alternative transportation is clean, efficient, and comfortable, where congestion, smog, global warming, road rage, and urban sprawl do not threaten our health and economy. Don’t our children deserve that? Don’t we all?

Thank you for reading this. For more information, please visit www.carfree.com, www.worldcarfree.net, or www.chicagocriticalmass.org.

Sources: 1. U.S. Department of Transportation, NHTSA Research Note, January 2005: <http://www-nrd.nhtsa.dot.gov/pdf/nrd-30/NCSA/RNotes/2005/809831.pdf>
2. American Lung Association of Metropolitan Chicago, *Asthma Facts*: http://www.lungchicago.org/news/Chicago_Asthma_Fact2.doc
3. National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, Fatality Analysis Reporting System: <http://www-fars.nhtsa.dot.gov/>
4. *Fixes that Fail: Road Congestion*: <http://www.systems-thinking.org/theWay/sff/ffx02.htm>

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