

## The CHILD and vehicle Daytime Running Lights

primum nil nocere: the highest principle and premise in medicine: to avoid harm

"As I have already said, the belief that one's own view of reality is the only reality is the most dangerous of all delusions. It becomes still more dangerous if it is coupled with the missionary zeal to enlighten the rest of the world, whether the rest of the world wishes to be enlightened or not. To refuse to embrace wholeheartedly a particular definition of reality (e.g. an ideology), to dare to see the world differently can become a 'think crime' in a truly Orwellian sense as we get steadily closer to 1984". Paul Watzlawick.

Orwell's problem: His imagination was insufficient – he did not dare to go that far beyond 1984.

To come to the point:

### Daytime Running Lights kill KIDS.

Soon after the onset of Daytime Running Lights (DRL) in Austria, the Kuratorium der Verkehrs-Sicherheit (traffic safety department) signalled: 'Higher numbers of child accidents at zebra crossings!' - no explanation, no theory. On the contrary, systematic visual field and hearing defects (detection for direction of a sound) in children were attributed to the cause of the problem, despite nothing being wrong with the children's eyes and ears. Originally the initiators of the Austrian DRL 'experiment' planned a statistical evaluation of numbers of traffic participants injured and killed. However, 6 months after the ban of DRL, those numbers have significantly reduced.

Apart from this ineffectual statistical measuring device, the cynicism and brutality of such a 'test arrangement' never came up. As if experimenting with *Drosophila* to MLD 50 (fruit fly - a favoured test insect given the minimal lethal dose which kills 50% of the population) for measuring toxicity and side-effects of pharmaceuticals, human guinea pigs have been exposed to a fatal threat using Daytime Running Lights.

Unprotected victims.

One group of traffic participants, cocooned in a steel safety cage, impact absorbent bumpers, tonnes of kinetic energy, safety cells, side impact protectors, energy absorbing crush zones, SUV bull bars, pre-crash-warning systems, anti-skid systems, seat belts with pre-tensioners, airbags and airbag-curtains, are equipped with distracting, dedicated DRL, high intensity discharge (HID) headlight beams, foglights, dazzling high level brake and tail lights, in order to increase conspicuity.

The other group totally unprotected. In darkness, befogged. David vs. Goliath.

Even worse: blinded by super-bright Hi-LED consoles blasting glare into all directions - at the level of children's eyes - at the impact zone (SUV, bus, truck) - in a nutshell: "outgunned".

Unethical performance

Not a single Ethical Commission on earth would permit such a 'study'. The **DRL** -conception, -design and -methodology suffer from fundamental errors which **violate Article Three of Human Rights, Equality Principle and the Obligation of Protection**. The 'Kinder vom Spiegelgrund' (Nazi-crime and -tortures), children became victims of maniacal man-shaped monsters.

Children at zebra crossings (or 'Schutz'-Weg meaning 'protective way') have been sacrificed at the altars of the automotive industry. And children will be sacrificed in all eternity - until somebody steps in to prevent this carnage. Soon pedestrian (and cyclist) casualties might exceed the number of war victims. Children falling prey to financial greed.

Over millions of years man has learned to spot a moving menace - the shadows of beasts, approaching enemies, in the periphery of his visual field. He might be able to cope with one, two or three of such over-exaggerated stimuli like DRL, however four or more bright, fulgurous dazzling 'traffic relevant' objects are dangerous, causing capacitive decompensation of cognitive processes (inattentional blindness etc.) and are rendering adequate and timely reactions impossible. In particular enhanced vigilance, training and experience is inefficacious in combating these undesired side effects of DRL.

The child at the zebra crossing might be focussed clearly and rich in contrast at retinal level, the image even being represented in the driver's visual cortex, however the Visual Short Term Memory (VSTM) revokes.

Children, mothers with prams, invalids in wheelchairs, cyclists etc. are becoming victims of an erroneous conception and a flawed and flimsy argument. At the zebra crossing (or 'Schutz'-Weg), kids become transfixed: mesmerised unable to jump out of the way - even after having recognized the approaching threat.