

Sound-off

Motorcycle vs. cars: battle over parking



ANDREA SIMPSON
THE CLACKAMAS PRINT

It's raining. There is not a parking spot to be found, and some jerk just cut you off for a spot in the last row that you still would have shot someone for.

And then you see it. And you are filled with so much rage that you literally see red and feel your hand itching for a baseball bat.

It's the inconsiderate individual who feels the need to compensate for a low self-esteem by riding a huge motorcycle and parking said motorcycle in a spot designed for cars.

And this guy frequently parks in a prime spot right in the front row of the Roger Rook parking lot.

Here is a newsflash for you: There are spots entirely for motorcycles.

I have always cut you slack because I thought, "Well, maybe the person doesn't realize the motorcycle section is there, or maybe it was full."

But then one day, when the Rook lot was jam-packed, as usual, I saw your bike in the designated area!

If you know it's there and you choose to ignore it, that officially makes you a bag of douche.

I simply don't understand what goes through your mind.

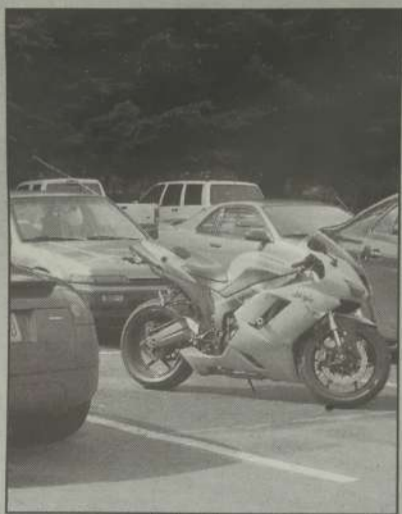
"So here is a spot that a car could fit into, and here is a spot that a car could not park in, but I could ... nope, I am definitely going to take the first one."

Seriously? Not to mention the fact that the "cycle only" zone is actually closer to the campus buildings.

It would be more convenient for you to park there. The logic you must use to park further away and inconvenience yourself is astounding.

Look, James Dean, this whole rebel-without-a-cause thing is getting old fast for those of us who have to suffer because you are too cool for school.

Please park in the designated area or soon you will find yourself face to face with an angry mob.



Andrea Simpson Clackamas Print

Irresponsible texting causes risky driving



Kayla Berge



LISA SELLARS
THE CLACKAMAS PRINT

Imagine trying to send a text message while driving, looking up from that text and realizing there's a freight train just a matter of feet ahead.

Texting from behind the wheel is a serious matter.

But if it's so dangerous and distracting, why are we allowed to not only put ourselves in danger, but also those whose lives would be affected if our car swerved into oncoming traffic?

Although at this time it has not been made illegal in Oregon, Washington and other states have taken steps to try to stop drivers from texting on the road.

In Oregon, if state lawmakers have their way, it will soon be banned.

Consequences

According to the Web site of AOL Autos, autos.aol.com, this proposal, if passed into law, could fine drivers upwards of \$720 for texting or holding a cell phone to their ear.

Some might think that because their texting seemingly does not impact their driving, it is an acceptable activity.

When you think about it, though, driving isn't solely about skill - it has a lot to do with other motorists.

When looking at a phone instead of the road, it is impossible to know whether the person up ahead is a decent driver.

Everyone has witnessed that one motorist who waits to turn on his or her turn signal until two feet before the turn, not even breaking until the next car is swerving.

My experience

Recently, a friend of mine, while making a delivery for work, decided to read a text message and ended up hitting the car in front of her because it had stopped for a pedestrian.

As she told me what happened, we realized that I had written the text she was attempting to read.

My friend later told me that she usually texts during her deliveries and that it is her "time to catch up with friends."

Two days later, that same friend ran a red light.

She was sending a text to individuals she knew who were sitting in a car across from her at the intersection.

I was following this friend to her house several days after that when I received a text message from her telling me where to park.

Looking up from my phone, I barely hit the break in time to see that she had stopped at a red light.

I came inches from hitting her new car.

Unfortunately, these incidents are not unusual now that cell phones are owned by every man and dog.

But regardless, I am in effort to actually call with whom I am attempting to converse.

A study done by Insurance, in January suggests that 19 percent text while driving.

Not surprising to many of those drivers are ages of 18 and 27.

I myself am 20 and into this statistic.

That appears to be an age range where consequences are overshadowed by the knowing what's best tendency to not take responsibility for one's actions.

Our choice

Maybe we need a law that texting while driving and irresponsible choices.

Perhaps we need "tough" us down, like our elementary teachers once did, and the rules are and to not.

A \$720 fine might be in order to finally make people think about what it is we are.

I think it would be better to talk about these things before we get into the pen and consider what we are gambling.

Lives.

The Clackamas Print

The Clackamas Print
19600 S. Molalla Ave.
Oregon City, OR 97045
503-657-6958, ext. 2309

Editor in Chief: Megan Koler
Copy Editor: Colleen Watkins
News Editor: Lydia E. Bashaw
A&C Editor: Emily Walters
Sports Editor: Andrea Simpson
Feature Editor: Kyle Steele
Photo Editor: Kayla Berge
Opinion Editor: Armondo Borboa
Photo Associate: John Shufelt
News Associate: John Hurlburt

AD MANAGER: Meredith James

STAFF WRITERS/ PHOTOGRAPHERS:
Kenton Benfield, Robert Crawford, Matthew Garrison, Lisa Sellars, Jess Sheppard

PRODUCTION ASSISTANT:
Mallory Bashaw

DEPARTMENT ADVISER:
Melissa Jones

DEPARTMENT SECRETARY:
Pat Thompson

GOALS: The Clackamas Print to report the news in an unbiased, professional manner. The opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the student body, college administration, its faculty or staff. E-mail comments to chiefed@clackamasprint.com