

Letters to the Editor

Editor,
Michael Vu, I have to say, your victory in the ASG election was extremely hollow and rather embarrassing one. What is that? Certainly nothing to brag about! In the election to be president of ASG. Yea, I was the choice offered, but I won."
I really wanted to prove myself to even be worthy, you fought for the other candidate's right (that candidate is Izzo) to run against you.
I'm just sitting back and winning the way you did - shame on you.
-efebvre

Bikes bite back

Andrea,
I read up the latest issue of *The Clackamas Print* (v41, Issue 2, page 2, I saw your byline and picture on the "Sound-off" and I marveled at what I found there.
I'm still trying to decide which is more amazing - that one of the editors of the newspaper would hijack the public forum or that the editor in chief of the paper would print your insult: "a bag of douche."
It is not only inappropriate for you to commandeer this column for your personal use, but to do so in such a shrill, unprofessional manner really begs the question: "Who the hell let her on

over, there is the issue that you are simply flat wrong. I am currently a motorcyclist, but I have been in the past, and I know you that a motorcycle is no different than a car when it comes to parking privileges at CCC or anywhere else (the very few) designated spaces, if you look closely, you will see that they are for motorcycles *only*.
In other words, they are reserved preferentially, both as a way to thank for using a lower-impact transportation and in recognition that riders may be arriving in inclement weather, they would like to get out of quickly.
Probably the most disturbing part of your tirade was the ad hominem attack on someone you don't even know. Well, that and the picture of their bike, so at least some of us will figure out you're compensating for a low self esteem" that makes "your ego as big as a baseball bat."

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So, I'm not expecting the *New York Times*, but I'm not expecting a junior high school poop sheet, either. Save it for your next page.
-an Constable

Editor,
I'm starting to think that you had turned your paper around; it has become much more professional and well-written than a couple of terms that has ever been.
I reviewed the presidential race and gave opinions on recycling and tuition and other big issues, I thought your opinion page was finally starting to cover subjects about and explain them to me in a way that I can understand.

Well, your stupid opinion columnist trashing my bike riding me, calling me "a bag of douche" and threatening a mob attack just goes to show how ignorant and crappy your rag can really be.

I don't like me who ride are passionate about our wheels. How dare you put a picture of my bike without my permission in your paper then insult me without ever once talking to me.

Maybe your stupid columnist should look around next time you park your car badly you car people park. Maybe we riders don't park in the "designated spots" because you idiots with cars have run into our bikes in the designated spots more than I can recall.

I read an issue with my self-esteem, I'd be driving a huge 4x4 truck jacked up on a 12-inch lift. I drive a motorcycle that is four times as gas-efficient as a car, emits less than a tenth as much pollution and, unlike your opinion columnist says, I can't text-message or afford to rage like you apparently do on a daily basis.

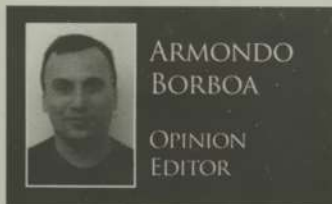
Flash for you, darlin: The next time you have a question about what people are thinking, maybe you should ask them instead of just making stuff up about them.

Maybe that is why you are such a terrible writer, because you don't know how to do your own job and instead you pull stuff out of your butt to fill a page. I'd say to go back to writing about what you aren't that good about sports, either.
Your paper owes me an apology, and I expect one.
-new Celtics

The never-ending search for someone to blame



Kayla Berge Clackamas Print



ARMONDO BORBOA
OPINION EDITOR

Global warming, illegal immigration, celebrity feuds on TV, fat school kids out of control, spoiled pets eating their owners, aliens controlling government ... it never stops.

You know what I mean. No matter how serious or totally ridiculous the cause, everyday scientists and researchers, celebrities and rock stars and any number of talking heads are all saying a whole lot of nothing and never really fixing anything.

In most cases, these high-functioning idiots actually make things worse the more they try to "fix" what they think is wrong.

An issue of my very own

My favorite cause I love to hate is the high price of gas at the pump and all the morons who blame everything under the sun, yet never quite manage to figure it out.

You would have to be hiding under a rock to not have noticed the nearly quadrupling increase in gas prices the past few years.

At more than \$4 a gallon already, the price of fuel is going higher on a daily basis without any signs of abating any time soon.

At the same time, you can't turn on a TV or radio without some pundit screaming about the imminent collapse of America and our need to start riding bicycles to work.

Oh, please. Presidential candidate Barack Obama, in a speech reminiscent of one given in the late 1970s by the unknown Marx brother Jimmy Carter, recently suggested Americans need to start turning

down their thermostats and learn to live without their big gas-guzzling SUV's and fancy-shmancy air conditioners.

Are you kidding me? Seriously? I don't think so.

Don't get me wrong - the high price of oil is a serious problem, and our dependence on foreign sources of supply is a critical national security issue.

However, thinking that Americans can significantly make a difference cutting back on their use of fuel by wearing sweaters and driving less is not only unrealistic, it also shows a complete lack of understanding of the root cause of our national problem.

Not really a disaster

The last time America had a fuel crisis, it was way back in the early '70's, and that crisis makes the current one look like a joke in comparison.

Gas prices would have to get to well over \$9 a gallon in order to be as expensive in today's dollars as it was back then when you take inflation into account.

Even the most inefficient road beast SUV of today, the GM Hummer 2.0, has a better gas mileage and overall emissions standards than the average family station wagon did 30-something years ago.

They also have more safety features, a longer useful road life and use fewer non-renewable resources in their construction.

We just happen to drive an exponentially larger number of cars now versus back then.

Our home appliances, refrigerators, TVs, microwaves, etc. are more than twice as electricity efficient as they were in the '70s.

Again, we just happen to own a lot more of them in each house now than we did then.

I don't know about you, but I happen to like my air conditioner. I like having a TV in each room,

a dishwasher and microwave, a second fridge just to keep my sodas cold, an X-box in my office and owning all the other electronic junk cluttering up my house.

It is unlimited access to energy that has made American the envy of the world.

I enjoy my comforts, and I feel no shame in admitting it.

Call me what you will, but being an American means having a higher standard of living than everybody else and I am simply not ready to give up my luxuries.

However, oil is a finite resource no matter how you look at it. The answer to the energy crunch lies not in consuming less oil, because eventually we will run out of oil no matter how efficiently it is used.

"OK, Mr. Smarty-pants," you might say, "that is a no-brainer. So what is the solution?"

Consequences

The answer is not just the development of alternative energy sources, but the proper implementation that will not cause more problems than it solves.

Right now, the developments of ethanol or cellulose fuels are considered to be promising technologies capable of someday completely replacing oil.

The problem with using corn for ethanol is utilizing a food crop as a fuel source is creating a domino effect on other commodity prices such as milk, cheese and bread, which are dependent on corn.

A devastating long-term effect of developing ethanol is the massive damage caused to the environment by nations such as Brazil clear-cutting the rain forest to create farmable land for corn.

Any solutions our science can come up with will always carry their own price.

We need to be sure we properly identify what our problems are.

More importantly, we must be willing to pay the price.

Clackamas Print

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