



PHOTO BY ROB SYDOR | DIGITALLATTE.COM

## LESS GAS, MORE ASS

About 60 bicyclists rolled through downtown Eugene Saturday afternoon, June 11, protesting America's consumer culture and addiction to foreign oil, while also touting the bicycle as an efficient and ecologically friendly means of transportation.

The catch? Most were butt-naked, or nearly so, and some wore body paint instead of clothing, or as supplemental attire. Police were present, but no arrests were reported.

"It's a grassroots environmental protest to call attention to our addiction to fossil fuels," said Ralph Forrest-Ball, who organized the event. "Our addiction to foreign oil forces us to make bad foreign policy decisions."

The Eugene ride was part of the World Naked Bike Ride, an international protest against fossil fuels that started in Spain back in 2001. Some cities have huge rides; last year an estimated 13,000 nude or nearly nude bicyclists clogged the streets of Portland for an entire day.

Rallying to cries of "Less gas, more ass," and "We're protesting our indecent exposure to cars," the naked and near-naked nature-loving nonconformists rode from Skinner Butte Park through downtown Eugene, drawing plenty of stares and honks along the way.

The ride isn't all about protesting fossil fuels though, said Forrest-Ball.

"The Naked Bike Ride is also designed to make people feel better about their bodies," he said. "We're constantly being told that the way you are is not good enough."

"Being a nudist is kind of like being a non-smoker," he added. "When people ask you how long you've been a non-smoker, you can't answer. It's the same for being a nudist. I've always felt that clothes were sort of unnecessary."

Forrest-Ball hopes to see the ride grow in the future, urging people to volunteer for next year's ride.

"This year things went pretty smoothly," he said. But "it would be nice to have more backup. I would hope that next year would have more volunteers."

For more information on the World Naked Bike Ride, visit the organization's website at [www.worldnakedbikeride.org](http://www.worldnakedbikeride.org). To volunteer at next year's ride, email Forrest-Ball at [tiedyeguy@gmail.com](mailto:tiedyeguy@gmail.com) — *Nils Holst*



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