

Sign on....

In my last comment, I talked a little about bicycle safety, so today I'm going to add a little to those thoughts. There was a bicyclist hit the other night at 16th and J streets, just around the corner from where I live. The driver that hit him fled the scene, and has not been apprehended, as far as I know. I assume the bike rider was riding in accordance with the law, but at night you need lights and reflective clothing, which I don't know if he was wearing. Then, the other day, a bike rider was hit at 6th and H or I, and was hurt enough to have to go to the hospital. According to the Times-Standard, the bike rider ran the light, and rode into the traffic. Now, I've heard that a State senator wants a law passed that makes it mandatory for all bike riders to wear a helmet, regardless of age. As I've said before, I rode bikes for years, and I learned the hard way that I needed to wear a helmet. One day I was riding down Buhne Street at a fair clip and a young boy crossed Buhne right in front of me, and I T-Boned him. I was wearing a helmet, because I tipped my bike over down on the waterfront once, and scraped up my face, pretty good. As I hit the pavement from the T-Bone, I heard a big CRAACK- it was my helmet, not my head, that cracked. The little guy was o.k., but if it had been a car going 30 miles an hour that he rode across in front of, he could have been seriously injured, if not killed. Turns out that he and a friend were taking different directions home from somewhere, ~~and~~ each one trying to beat the other. It would have been a tie, because the other kid was about a half block down the street. Getting back to the law, I think it's a good one, but lots of folks, guys mostly, I imagine, might fight it-not

macho enough!//I have friends who are on Medicare, with a secondary insurance, whose doctor abandoned her practice, and her partner was going to pick them up. Well, he decided he couldn't handle the extra load, so now she is searching for a doctor for her husband and herself. She has literally called every doctor's office from Fortuna to Arcata, with no results- that is scary. It's not that they aren't good solid generally healthy folks, because they are. I was talking with a nurse at the Wound Center at Mad River Hospital last week, and one of the reasons for the shortage of doctors here is, that they need some rural experience, so when they fulfil that obligation, they leave. Other reasons are: the wives don't like the lack of social high-life; the hours are too long, and the list goes on.//Another thing that bugs me is the fact that Medicare and Medical have cut re-bursement rates so far that they can't make any money. They are entitled to a decent return on their investment-take a look next time you go to the doctor and see how many folks are working and what equipment they have to have. Write your Congress people- use their State addresses to get it to them faster// Cypress String Quartet- Calvary Lutheran Church Friday- 7:30- be there. Meet the artists reception to follow ^{CHURCH} the concert.

SIGN OFF ...