

Yesterday

~~The morning~~ I rode my bike to work; it's not the first time I've put on my cleats, hopped on ~~my bike~~ and pedaled 5.1 miles to my office; it's just, well, a very recent ritual. Here's why, at age 64, I'm just discovering bicycling as a good means to get to work. A year ago my daughter left for Australia, bequeathing ~~to~~ me her old road bike. Immediately the spokes broke, snapping like pretzels under a karate chop. After looking at the broken bike for months, Finally, I took it down to the local bike shop and asked them to rebuild the wheels, brakes, and anything that needed fixing. I was ~~shocked~~ shocked when I got the bill—I usually am! But when I got on the bike and began riding I'm thinking it was well worth it. It shifts gears smoother than silk, and the frame, though smallish for a 6-foot guy, is light and responsive. ~~Later~~ ^{Lately} I've been riding ride to and from work several times a week, and I'm feeling pretty righteous about it. Here's why:

#1. Riding bicycles is a lot of fun. To feel the wind in your face and see the sights, hear the sounds and smell the great outdoors. It far surpasses riding in a car as an aesthetic experience, ~~especially because the North Coast offers lots of scenic beauty, and fewer cars than further south.~~

#2. Riding bikes would be a lot more fun if cars were not on the road. Ever since I visited Mackinac Island as a teenager: an ^{island} ~~island~~ where cars are not allowed, I've thought cars suck. They suck in air and breath out pollutants; they take up excessive space in garages and parking lots, and they make a lot of noise!

#3. Cars also suck when it comes to establishing any sense of community. An individual boxed in a big hunk of tin on four wheels is a lot less socially engaged than an individual walking, bicycling or, let's say riding on a bus or train.

#4. Riding bicycles makes you aware of just how *many* cars are on the road. You don't see it when driving along at 50 miles an hour. But when you are getting passed by all these huge gas guzzling 4x4 pickups and SUV's, you realize how many big autos are belching noxious fumes as they pass by.

#5. Riding bicycles could be the best way to save the earth. Cars suck because they are the chief culprits in global warming. Everyone today ^{is} on a Holy Crusade against global warming, but few are willing to alter their lifestyles in order to do anything about it. Politicians pontificate and pass global warming measures; then they ride around the world in big limousines and huge airplanes. Imagine a country where 50 60 or 70% of the people rode bicycles to work rather than jumping into the car. It would hugely reduce waste of natural resources and, it could also combat ~~our~~ obesity epidemic.

#6. Riding bicycles is a great way to save money. Cars not only suck a lot of gas; they suck a lot of money out of the wallet. My wife and I looked at last year's budget, and when we added up all the gasoline, license fees, repairs, insurance, let alone, the purchase price of the cars--we were appalled.

#7. Riding bicycles is the wave of the future. For most of us Boomers we bought cars to get us to work, and let's be honest, to look good. Hey, A big Humvee—look at me! Little thought was given to our impact on the environment. Today, Millennials factor earth-keeping into their formula for making purchases. ^{traffic goodness!} Well, whether young or old, I think we all could agree that driving less, and cycling more, would be a great way to become better stewards of God's good earth.

This has been Dan Price for Community Comment