

Different spokes for different folks

by Mary MacDonald

In the morning he rises not unlike the Phoenix. But this more common bird can be found almost anywhere in the city on a frosty morning. The layman term best describing the creature is "the avid cyclist."

Graduate student James Dunlap describes some of his cycling experiences which no

doubt are shared by fellow bikers.

Dunlap commented on the virtues of cycling as a mode of transportation: "It's a combination of habit and economics. I estimate it costs me fifty dollars per year, including the extra food I must consume to maintain the habit."

"Cycling," he added, "gives me physical conditioning as well

as a feeling of moral superiority in knowing that I'm not contributing to pollution or the depletion of non-renewable resources."

Cycling does have its' drawbacks. The main disadvantage often is a natural, organic one: the elements. According to the veteran cyclist, raincoats are not yet made with the biker in mind. Thus, if you happen to see someone soaking wet from the waist down, you'll know he doesn't drive a car. He said the situation can be remedied by rolling up one's pant legs. This can be dangerous for the cyclist, however, in the event that he forgets to roll them back down when in the company of others. Mr. Dunlap has, on occasion, gathered odd glances from some, as well as comments on his mental health when he's been seen wearing elastics around his pant legs all day. Admits Dunlap: "At least it helps to relieve the boredom of those that view me."

Another problem encountered by cyclists is "the human element." Locking up the bike may be a nuisance but according to Mr. Dunlap: "It is an inconvenience that I now accept due to the realization of the low ebb of public morality today."

This ebbing came to a head the day Dunlap went to unlock his bike and found his bike intact but the lock nowhere in sight. A more credible example of the



state of public morality occurred a few days later when Dunlap smugly parked his well-worn vehicle next to a brand-new bike that was also unlocked.

Returning later, he found his only means of transport gone. Thereupon he was heard to comment in a wry tone: "There's no accounting for taste, I guess." Dunlap's demeanor was

even more wryly wrinkled when he went to ride his newest bike to find it chained securely to the bikestand by not only his lock, but by an alien one as well.

It's been rumored that Mr. Dunlap was seen yesterday, browsing through the lot of Ace Auto Sales Unlimited, with his wallet chained to his waistcoat.



Photos by Mary MacDonald

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