



A holiday must-read: Ivan Strápek hits the slopes in Romania

Where to Allow (and ban) Car Parking

The parking of automobiles is clearly a wasteful use of road space, but the alternatives providing all off-street parking – is a wasteful use of other resources. A compromise is thus needed to improve the efficiency of road space without inflicting inordinate costs on society in terms of paying for off-street parking.

A few places should absolutely ban car parking, with sufficiently strong penalties to serve as true deterrents. These include busy streets, all footpaths, and all parks and playgrounds. Banning car parking on busy streets could allow for greater provision of space

for bicycle lanes, rickshaws, and an efficient bus rapid transit system. Car parking on footpaths is an offensive deterrent to pedestrians and should never be tolerated, any more than would the stowing of other personal belongings (a bed, a table, a desk) on the footpath.

Minor streets could allow car parking within designated areas, with people around to collect fees based on time and space used. Sensitive areas that require free access and especially where children gather should ban parking altogether within a certain radius. This would include schools, and would have the effect of reducing traffic congestion, increasing safety, and serving as an inducement to travel to school by more efficient modes.

Rahidul Samana Roky, Dhaka, Bangladesh

Automobile Industry Jobs

Since the problems of United States automakers have been in the news, I have been again wondering if the end of the automobile age will mean fewer jobs. Along with the jobs for autoworkers, cars create jobs at filling stations, car washes, insurance companies, etc. Fighting global warming will mean more people will have jobs driving buses, re-

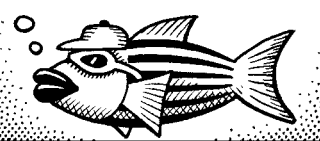


Debra Efroymson relaxes on a rickshaw in Bangladesh with Carbusters

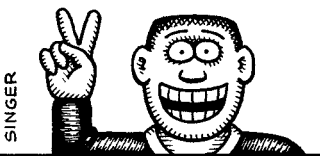
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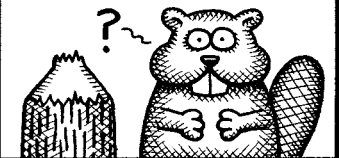
IN 1932, WE STILL HAD ABUNDANT OIL AND NATURAL RESOURCES. WE CONSUMED OUR WAY OUT OF THE DEPRESSION BY TURNING ALL THESE RESOURCES INTO WAR MATERIALS, CONSUMER GOODS, CARS, HIGHWAYS AND SUBURBAN SPRAWL.



WITH THE EXCEPTION OF ALTERNATIVE ENERGY AND PUBLIC TRANSIT, OUR INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENTS MUST BE IN **HUMAN CAPITAL**, NOT MORE HIGHWAYS!



TODAY WE FACE VASTLY DEPLETED NATURAL RESOURCES, POLLUTION AND CLIMATE CHANGE. THUS, UNLIKE 1932, WE MUST CREATE AN ECONOMIC RECOVERY IN WHICH WE CONSUME **LESS** OF THE PLANET.



HIRING MORE DOCTORS, NURSES, TEACHERS AND CHILD CARE WORKERS WILL IMPROVE PEOPLE'S LIVES WITHOUT USING UP PRECIOUS RESOURCES. UNLIKE CONSUMERISM, IT MIGHT ALSO BRING US CLOSER TOGETHER.



pairing bicycles, making renewable energy equipment, etc. But I suspect that society, as a whole will experience a net loss of jobs.

Governments will need to adopt measures to help provide food and housing for the unemployed during the transition to a sustainable society. Organic farming would be one place for people to obtain a livelihood. Farmers might make less money than autoworkers, but they have a chance to be their own boss. They can also grow a lot of their own food. But potential farmers might not have access to land. Governments should try to provide land for organic farmers; the richer countries also need land reform.

Milton Takei, Oregon, USA

The Car Top Bike Trailer Lives

Sometimes things are not so valuable by virtue of what they are, but by what they can become. So when I saw an abandoned car top

carrier in a back lane, it wasn't just a discarded plastic box that I saw, but rather the potential waterproof, large capacity bicycle cargo trailer that it could become. Some wooden 2x2's, a bit of plywood, and glue for the frame. "Found" wheels, and a couple of dollars of steel tubing later, and voila! The pieces emerge from their cocoon to become the trailer that was always their potential. Total cost perhaps US\$ 5.00.

An initial trial run delivering a bunch of bottles to a recycling depot, and taking some groceries home established that it works just fine. Of course it has the capacity to carry a fairly vast amount of stuff but is ideally suited for those bulky but relatively light objects that can be difficult to strap to the back of a bike. They laughed when I told them what could be done by bicycle, but when I started playing with trailers...

Ron Richings, Vancouver, Canada

