

Cyclists to drivers: I want to ride my bicycle, I want to ride my bike

BIKES ARE BECOMING POPULAR TRANSIT, THOUGH DANGEROUS

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The dual white lines marking the areas reserved for cyclists have become an increasingly common sight on roadways. However, while painted with good intentions, these lines do little to protect bikes from the dangers of the road.

During the last few decades, in keeping with the rise of sustainability awareness and initiatives, bikes have been increasingly recognized as a legitimate form of transportation.

Cities around America have experimented with an approach referred to as "Copenhagenization," the process of urban planning around bike accessibility.

Despite America's long love affair with the automobile, bikes are proving both useful and popular. Bike Shop owner and bike sustainability advocate Philip Koopman attributes the boom in usage to increasing awareness of environmental issues.

"I think it's definitely tied in with the focus on sustainability," said Koopman. "I also think people are seeing the health

benefits of biking everywhere instead of driving."

"Like it or not, climate change is going to force our hand eventually," said Koopman. "In the 1950s, they (car companies) created a whole industry around convincing people, through advertising, to all buy their own cars. It's just not sustainable, and it's not realistic to think that we can all keep driving cars."

Although biking in Greensboro can be more nerve-wracking than on the streets of bike-



is this hippie pretending he's a car? Get off the road hippie.' I can feel the aggression emanating from the front bumper, man."

As it turns out, even Greensboro's political elect are not safe. In 2011, Rep. Pricey Harrison was struck by a car, fracturing her foot, after a driver ran a red light.

But Greensboro residents might feel safer in comparison to those commuting in the United Kingdom. In the past year alone, 110 cyclists have been killed in traffic accidents. Bike lanes are sparse, and ten miles can easily take two hours to traverse.

STUDIES SHOW ... ON AVERAGE, 95 PERCENT OF CYCLISTS KILLED WHILE RIDING WERE NOT WEARING A HELMET. 62 PERCENT OF BICYCLE ACCIDENTS HAPPEN AFTER FOUR P.M. IN 2001, 1.7 BILLION TRIPS WERE MADE BY BICYCLE IN THE U.S. THAT NUMBER MORE THAN DOUBLED IN 2009 TO FOUR BILLION. THE MORE CYCLISTS ON THE ROAD, THE SAFER CYCLING IS.

friendly towns like Fort Collins, Colo., due to bike lanes being a rarity, North Carolina was the first state to institute a state bicycle program. The program,

instituted in 1974, became the basis for the model now used worldwide. Guilford County is ranked third in the state for reducing bike accidents, with only 714 occurring in a ten-year period.

"I can't tell you how many times I almost died," laughed Nick Perl, bike shop employee and former Guilford student who now attends Colorado State University. "People in North Carolina are like, 'Who

Bike enthusiasts are directed to often muddy paths and back roads and can be asked to dismount in urban areas. A recent study by the British Transport Research Laboratory found that more than a quarter of bicycle deaths in England are attributed to a bike being rammed with the front bumper of a car.

For those still interested in braving the streets of Greensboro, Guilford students can find bikes for rent from the bike shop behind Shore Hall for five dollars a day, or 400 dollars for the full year.

Pope's papers burgled, first Vatican criminal trial

GABRIELE GAVE CONFIDENTIAL DOCUMENTS FROM INSIDE THE VATICAN TO ITALIAN JOURNALIST

BY ELIAS BLONDEAU
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Julian Assange, founder of the controversial website WikiLeaks, has made a name for himself by exposing corruption in the government and corporations alike. Paolo Gabriele, personal butler to Pope Benedict XVI for six years, seemed to have the same intentions when he burgled confidential documents from the Pope's desk in Vatican City earlier this year.

But unlike Assange, Gabriele could not escape the grasp of the law.

After Gabriele gave letters detailing struggles for power and pleas for corruption to be suppressed to Italian journalist Gianluigi Nuzzi, the Italian press began speculating about what was going on inside the Vatican. A rigorous internal investigation led to the butler being apprehended and put under house arrest to wait for his trial.

That trial began on Oct. 2, leading to Gabrielle being sentenced to 18 months in an Italian prison. However, he is currently serving his sentence inside the Vatican.

"I developed the conviction that it's very easy to manipulate a person who has decision making powers in his hands," said Gabrielle according to Bloomberg, claiming that he had "no accomplices" in this particular

act.

However, he went on to indicate that he was not the only person to have leaked information to the press, according to CNN. He also seems to have no regrets exposing the truth to the public, despite ruing the fact that he betrayed the Pope's trust.

In spite of this, he maintained a "not guilty" plea, despite the lack of concrete evidence in his defense. But his main priority seemed to be protecting whoever might have helped him.

"I believe those who are prone to criticize the Vatican will find justification in these events. Those who have deep respect and reverence for the Church will, at least publicly, jump to its defense."

Max Carter, director of Friends Center and campus ministry coordinator

"Suggestions aren't proof of the presence of accomplices," said Nicola Picardi, Gabrielle's lawyer, in his closing statements during the trial.

Further investigations have been launched into potential aides in this leak, but thus far Gabriele has been the only person sentenced. Most recently, a Vatican computer technician was suspected, but eventually acquitted.

The effects of this case can be felt across the globe, and extends to Guilford. According to Director of Friends Center and Campus Ministry Coordinator Max Carter, an event like this could potentially serve the purpose of furthering the rift between opposing parties.

"I believe those who are prone to criticize the Vatican will find justification in these events," said Carter in an email interview. "Those who have deep respect and reverence for the Church will, at least publicly, jump to its defense."

As more details surface about the specifics of corruption

occurring inside of the Vatican, time will tell if Carter's statement proves to be accurate. For now, the papacy exerts its power in Vatican court and across the globe.

Historically, the Vatican has kept controversy under wraps, most recently the sexual abuse of children.

Gabriele's attempt to unveil new secrets through illegal means has drawn attention to the Vatican once again.