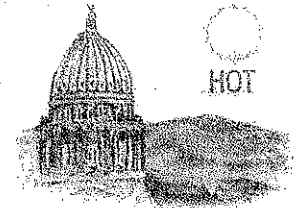


Idaho Statesman



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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

GOVERNMENT

It's time for voters to force a change in direction

"But when a long train of abuses and usurpations, pursuing invariably the same Object evinces a design to reduce them under absolute Despotism, it is their right, it is their duty, to throw off such Government, and to provide new Guards for their future security." — Declaration of Independence.

All Americans need to embrace this! If we don't like what is going on locally or nationally we have the right to change it — it is our duty to change it! We as a nation need to start cleaning house! It is our country; they work for us! It's time the politicians understand this!

KELLEY RODGERS, King Hill

BICYCLISTS

Don't ride against traffic

I write this letter to recant my suggestion that bicyclists should ride against traffic. For all of you, including the senator who called me at home, who have verbally whipped me about the issue, I humbly apologize for my shall we say, lack of intelligence on the subject.

SHERRY HORTON, Melba

Cyclists should be treated like the drivers they are

Bicyclists are drivers of vehicles. Every street is a bicycle facility. To those car drivers who maintain that roads are exclusively for cars and bicy-

cling should be kept to paths and sidewalks, you are wrong. Bicyclists have the right to access every destination reachable by public roads, and this right is protected by the traffic laws of every state.

To those bicyclists who maintain that the laws of the road don't apply to you, you are wrong. Your behavior is contributing to the prejudice that amplifies conflict, injury and sometimes death. Bicyclists are not "riders," they are drivers. If you use a bicycle, act like a driver. When cyclists are thought of as drivers, they coexist on our roads with other drivers. Drivers cooperate together best when each one uses the same set of rules. "Rules of the Road" represent our society's best understanding of how to minimize collisions while maximizing mobility and access for all citizens. Bicyclists fare best

WALT MINNICK

Thanks for supporting consumer protection act

Thank you, Rep. Minnick, for co-sponsoring the bipartisan National Insurance Consumer Protection Act (HR 1880). While I am very conservative in my politics, I appreciate the step forward you are taking to ensure free-market economic principles in a time when we seem to be losing control of individual rights. I encourage our other federal delegation to join Mr. Minnick on this issue!

Today, the mandatory regulatory system burdens producers with 19th century regulations. My customers do not have access to products available in bordering states, and I am forced to

lose long-standing clients, many of whom consider me a trusted financial adviser, if they move out of state.

HR 1880 would give producers and insurers the ability to opt into a national regulatory system equipped to handle the needs of 21st century consumers. Under the bill, more products will be available (at more competitive prices) and consumers will be able to keep their advisers no matter where they live (or move).

This issue is about additional choice and competition in the marketplace, which always benefits consumers.

Rep. Minnick, thank you for addressing this arcane but important issue. Your leadership is not overlooked by independent insurance agents and brokers.

ERIK MAKRUSH, Caldwell

Fuss over car wash is much ado about nothing

Only in Idaho ... or maybe Utah, too. Why the big hullabaloo about local prudes complaining and school officials stopping the Centennial High School wrestling team's innovative idea to increase their revenue in a car wash? Do we punish people for being innovative? Just what did they do that was so "disgusting"? You would think they were displaying private parts or making finger gestures, or something else of a vulgar nature.

I applaud the wrestlers' willingness to make concessions on this. Good for you, guys. But I don't think it should have been necessary. What you did was absolutely hilarious. To me there was no reason for making all this fuss.

SUE VINSON, Boise