

I Want to Bike and Walk but... **Biking and Walking – A Lost Art**

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When was the last time you saw a kid biking or walking down the street on the way to school? As a matter of fact, when was the last time you saw a student walking or biking at all? The present generation is almost exclusively dependent on cars and motor vehicles, and all those bikes and running shoes are rusting and decaying down in the basement.

Of course, it *is* winter - A nasty, wet, slushy winter that seeps insidiously into our minds and blots out any desire for outdoor exercise. However, even this doesn't justify the indoor "hibernation" that the children of Block Island are experiencing. Instead we are polluting the environment even more than it already is by riding cars around. The high school students who performed last year's "bus boycott" were on to something, even though they only rode bikes to school to protest the bus driver not allowing them to sit in the back section of the bus.

Despite the conditions, though, I think it would help to place more bike racks in more universal locations and to encourage biking by selling and renting bikes for a little less extravagant price. It would also be nice to have bike trails and to improve and expand on walking trails.

Not biking or walking to school is a bit harder to remedy. Many of us live an inconveniently long distance from the school, making it somewhat of a strain to wake up early in the morning and biking several miles to the school. Due to icy roads and relatively dim light, biking and walking to school is potentially dangerous. It would help to either make the start of school a little later or hiring snowplows to clear up the roads and make them a little less hazardous. This would not only improve things for the students of the Block Island School, but also for other bikers and pedestrians commuting in early morning, late evening, or other times where the darkness and icy roads might be dangerous.

I generally bike often, but sometimes weather conditions and lack of good trails and roads puts me off. I do a lot of biking and walking in the summer, but in the winter, everyone just prefers to take cars and buses to prevent themselves from skidding and crashing on roads, freezing, getting completely soaked, or all of the above. However, there are many things we can do to make biking and walking more enjoyable for everyone. How far will we go to promote exercise and help remedy global warming? You decide.

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