

Editorial

Moped Riders Must Obey Traffic Laws

We grudge no one their right to make an honest living. We're also well aware that some ways of earning one's bread by the sweat of one's brow, literally or figuratively, are harder than others. And we also know, because we see them in action every day and frequently avail ourselves of their services, that the people who deliver food orders are among those who work longest and hardest at a job that ranks among the riskiest and hardest of all the occupations this city has to offer.

Our sympathy notwithstanding, we also feel that no one has the right to endanger the lives of other innocent people in the course of performing their work. Some food delivery people and the food establishment owners and proprietors who employ them, however, seem ignorant of both city law and common sense as they go about the course of their labors.

Too many times we've had to engage in

some fancy footwork to dodge mopeds that were being ridden on sidewalks. In each case, said moped was operated by someone obviously employed by a food service establishment. We say "obviously" because every moped rider we encountered under these circumstances was trying to steer his vehicle with one hand while holding a bag of comestibles packaged for delivery in the other.

According to the New York State Vehicle and Traffic Law, the requirements to operate a moped are like those for motorcycles. Anyone operating a moped must have a driver's license and must register a moped in order to drive it on streets and highways. Most important, for the purpose of this discussion, it is, without exception, illegal to operate a moped on a sidewalk.

We can appreciate that operating a motor scooter in traffic, surrounded by much larger and heavier vehicles, is not the

safest way to get from the restaurant where a food order was prepared to the home or office of whoever ordered it. The law is the law, however. It is illegal to ride a moped on a sidewalk in the city of New York, and anyone who violates the law is subject to the same penalties that attend any other conviction for reckless driving.

We can appreciate that the mopeds let the food get delivered faster and that the people who work as hard as the restaurant staffs of this city certainly deserve a break. We cannot, however, countenance disregard of the law, even if that disregard arises solely out of ignorance. We call upon the owners of these establishments to ensure that their employees obey this city's statutes and ordinances in the course of doing their jobs. The food won't get appreciably colder if the delivery people do their jobs within the limits of the law and we'll all be safer and happier for it.

more American jobs will also be created and that in my book would be a very good thing.

Sincerely Yours
Frederick R. Bedell Jr.
Bellerose

Hails Giuliani

To The Editor:

"Poll: Rudy Is Top U.S. Pol:" (John Toscano--March 8) in discussing the recent Quinnipiac University poll confirms that everyone else in America is learning what New Yorkers already know. Rudy Giuliani has what it takes. He is a profile in courage. He is independent of the Washington lobbyists and inside-the-Beltway crowd and supports campaign finance reform. His is the voice of reason on behalf of taxpayers who can also cross the political aisle to engage in constructive dialogue with Democrats on issues that transcend both ideology and party.

He is a proven crime fighter. As a two-term mayor in a city previously dominated by political corruption of Democratic one-party rule, he turned the Big Apple around. During his administration, crime was reduced, streets became both cleaner and safer, economic growth and the creation of jobs were on the upswing and the city budget was balanced.

After the terror attacks of September 11, 2001, he served as a beacon of strength for all New Yorkers who survived the terrible aftermath to go on with life.

NYC Democrats outnumber Republicans by a margin of over five to one. Despite the odds, he has a proven track record of winning by appealing beyond the traditional narrow ideological conservative party base which is a receipt for defeat.

He has consistently been able to attract large numbers of first time, independent and moderate Democratic voters building a majority coalition necessary for winning. A Republican ticket of John McCain for President and Rudy Giuliani for Vice

President in 2008 would be a great choice for voters.

Sincerely,
Larry Penner
Great Neck, New York

Make Good Choices

To The Editor:

Each year on St. Patrick's Day, millions of people—both Irish and Irish at heart—celebrate Ireland's unique culture and heritage with parades, community activities and festivities.

Fortunately, many of those planning to celebrate will make designated drivers a part of their party plans. According to a recent poll conducted by Data Development Worldwide, more than 146 million American adults have been a designated driver or have been driven home by one.

According to the U.S. Department of Transportation, the number of fatalities in drunk-driving crashes nationwide has declined 39 percent since 1982. So let's all keep that trend moving in the right direction—by not relying on the luck of the Irish, but by making responsible choices this St. Patrick's Day.

You don't have to kiss the Blarney Stone, but as a gesture of thanks, be sure to give the designated driver a kiss, whether he's Irish or not. When it comes to preventing drunk driving, responsibility matters.

Sincerely,
C.A. Verdon
Consumer Awareness &
Education Coordinator
Anheuser-Busch Sales & Service
of New York, Inc.
Long Island City

Six Steps to a Safer Party

Whatever the occasion, if you're hosting a party don't forget these simple tips to help make sure it's a fun and memorable time for everyone.

Serve food when serving alcohol beverages. Good food complements the taste of the

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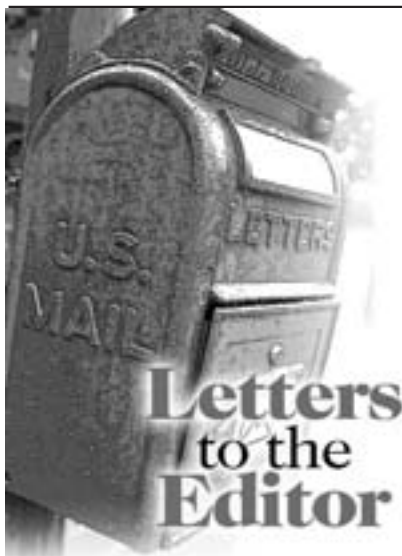
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Cheers India, President

To The Editor:

Although I've been disillusioned by President George Bush and his administration on a number of issues, the most recent one being the lease of our ports to the Dubai Ports World, I think President Bush's trip to India shows promise. The nuclear pact between America and Prime Minister Mammohan Singh does make good sense. We live in a world right now that doesn't like America very much and we need to develop ties with those who do and share our common interest, one of which is our fight against terrorism, which India does share that objective. India now has a population of 1.1 billion people and is developing a strong democratic economy, which now has 300 million [people] that are considered middle class. I think furthermore that consumers in both countries will benefit from this deal. In addition to that, as India becomes more prosperous they will be able to buy more goods and services, but India needs energy to grow, which we can provide, I live in Bellerose and quite a number of my neighbors and merchants are Indian or Indian descent and I have spoken to them about this and they have told me this would be a good thing for all concerned. Therefore, in my opinion as we trade more with India,