

# Campus bike laws must be followed, obeyed and enforced

**□ Bicyclist says cars parked in bike lanes pose a safety threat.**

**By Kasie Byers**  
THE BATTALION

Cars parked in bike lanes and cars not yielding the right-of-way to bicycles can be major concerns to bicyclists obeying traffic laws.

Martin Ebel, a graduate student and bicyclist, said cars parked in the bike lanes on Fridays are a major danger to bicyclists traveling on Bizzell.

"It seems that cars parked in the bike lanes on Fridays aren't even ticketed," Ebel said. "I realize that people are loading and

unloading their cars, but is their convenience more important than the bicyclists' safety? It's really an added danger.

Not only do we have to dodge the cars in the bike lanes, but we have to swerve into lanes of traffic and increase our chances of being hit."

Tom Williams, director of Parking, Transit and Traffic Services (PTTS), said cars are allowed to park in the bike lanes at certain times and some leave is given to drivers who park there on Fridays.

"We allow parking in the bike lanes when students move in and move out of the dorms and during the home football games," Williams said. "On Fridays we usually allow the students who park there some slack. We monitor how long they are parked there and give them warnings if

they have been parked too long. After that they are given a ticket."

Ebel said that cars do not yield the right-of-way to bicyclists when crossing the bicyclists' path.

"The intersection of New Main and Texas Avenue is a very dangerous spot for bicyclists because the bike lane goes straight and cars usually go right to merge onto Texas," he said. "Cars do not yield to the bicyclists and accidents nearly occur there all the time. The UPD doesn't appear to be enforcing the fact that the car is supposed to yield."

In locations where car traffic crosses a bike lane, the lane goes from being solid to dashed. According to PTTS, this is to alert bicyclists that something could cross in front of them.

Sgt. Tom Armstrong of the UPD said that in such instances the bike does have the right-of-

way, but he has no record of how many times this law has been enforced.

"Any time any kind of vehicle crosses another lane of traffic to merge, the lane that goes straight has the right-of-way," he said. "However, we don't have a record of how many tickets have been given to cars that fail to yield this right-of-way to bicyclists. Usually all the citations are lumped together and sent to the courts."

Ebel said he could think of numerous times he has almost been involved in an accident on the A&M campus because cars failed to obey laws regarding bicyclists.

"As a bike rider I can attest to how negligent cars are to bicyclists," Ebel said. "I'm not saying that all bicyclists are perfect, but it seems we're required to obey the laws while cars don't have to obey laws regarding our safety."



Cars parked in the bike lanes in front of Law and Puryear have caused major obstructions for bicyclists.

## HEALTH TIPS Abstinence a safe, possible alternative

**By Sharon Drumheller**  
A.P. BEUTEL HEALTH CENTER

Abstinence. Now here's a word you hear a lot about these days.

But, what does abstinence mean? It gets a little tricky here, because it means different things to different people.

For some, it means no sexual intercourse. For others, it means nothing more than hugging and holding hands.

Abstinence is personal and this is why abstinence has such varied meanings.

Morally, you can abstain for personal or religious beliefs. You can also abstain in order to remain faithful to a relationship.

Moreover, you can be abstinent to prevent pregnancy.

Or, you can be abstinent to prevent the spread of disease.

Let's look closer at abstinence for health reasons.

In many of today's educational programs, abstinence is touted as the only 100 percent effective way to prevent sexually transmitted diseases and unplanned pregnancies.

This is true, to a point, but only if you understand exactly what is meant by abstinence as it relates to health.

Put simply, the best way to avoid pregnancy and sexually-transmitted diseases, including HIV, is to avoid oral, vaginal and sexual intercourse.

All of these activities can promote the transmission of diseases.

So in the best interest of your health, it is recommended by experts to postpone sexual intercourse until such time you can be sure you are in a mutually monogamous relationship with an uninfected person.

Easier said than done, you say? You bet it is!

You are a sexual being, it's perfectly natural to show affection for another person in the form of sexual intercourse.

Abstinence is a choice made, not in the heat of the moment when your hormones are raging off the Richter scale, but at a time when you are thinking clearly about yourself and what is best for you.

Abstinence may not be a realistic choice for everyone and that's OK.

There are ways to be sexually active and healthy too.

Abstinence is often brushed over because it is assumed that everyone knows how to "not have sex."

So as an alternative to "safer sex," here are some tips on how to postpone sexual intercourse.

How can you be abstinent?

First off, you need to go forward from here and not think about what may have happened in the past.

Maybe you have already had sexual intercourse. This does not mean you cannot make a decision to be abstinent ever again.

You can choose to postpone sexual intercourse at any time in your life, no matter how many times you have had sexual intercourse in the past.

You can make this decision anytime.

If you decided today that you would rather wait to ride your bicycle a few more years you would not feel obligated to keep on riding simply because you knew how and had ridden before. You would probably just stop.

Well, the same is true for sex. It does not matter if you have done it before, what matters is what you want for yourself right now.

Making decisions to postpone sexual intercourse is the easy part.

Often the difficult part is trying to stick

with it. If you are dating someone and would like to remain abstinent, it is vital to first communicate your wants, needs and desires to your partner.

Once you both know what to expect, it will eliminate questions and allow you the freedom to develop other aspects of your relationship first.

You may also need to set some ground rules, depending on your situation.

Examples of ground rules may be to agree to go out in groups or not to be alone in private places where things could get heated. It's perfectly acceptable to set boundaries for yourself and to expect others to respect them.

Although it may be difficult to imagine for some, there are plenty of ways to feel intimate with a person without having sexual intercourse.

The fine art of kissing will never go out of style and the same is true for hugging, massaging and talking. What exactly you are willing to do, of course, is up to you.

Be creative in your dating ideas.

Fly a kite in Research Park, have a picnic, go canoeing, read a book aloud to your partner, go rollerblading.

Whatever you do, have fun.

And finally, believe it or not, should you choose to be abstinent, you would not be alone. It may seem like everyone is having sex by the looks of things on television, in the movies or next door, but it's not true.

Plenty of people are out there, just like you.

So don't feel like you need to be in a sexual relationship.

If you are making the best decisions you can for yourself and for your future, then that is all you will ever need in order to fit in.

## Quayle's campaign for presidency begins

Former V.P. critical of current President failure in foreign relations, health care

HOUSTON (AP) — Former Vice President Dan Quayle criticized President Clinton and boasted better credentials than any other GOP presidential hopeful Monday while courting support in what he called "George Bush Country."

"I have experience that no one else in the Republican presidential primary will have," Quayle told reporters after addressing a chapter of the Juvenile Diabetes Foundation.

"I've been vice president for four years. I've worked in the Oval Office. I've been through crises on an international basis. I have worked with a president who had to try to get his legislation through the Congress."

"Experience is certainly something that will separate me from the field."

Quayle plans to file candidacy papers Feb. 21 and formally begin his campaign with a late-April announcement in Indiana, but he already was tackling a busy campaign-like schedule on a swing through Texas.

The Republican met with Houston political supporters in the morning, addressed the diabetes group in the afternoon, and headed for appearances in Beaumont Monday night.

In a wide-ranging speech to several hundred foundation con-

tributors, Quayle supported congressional term limits, term reform and welfare reform.

He criticized Clinton's handling of a \$40 billion deal to help Mexico weather a fiscal crisis. The president was struggling to garner support for his loan plan in Congress.

Quayle said he supports rescue provided there are no collateral and assurances from the Mexican government, but he accused Clinton of botching the deal by failing to confer with nations and Congress.

"Look at the way they handled it," Quayle said. "In fact it doesn't pass, it's because of the incompetence of this administration."

Recent straw polls have shown Quayle running well behind other likely GOP presidential candidates. Sen. Gramm, R-Texas, won an Arizona poll last weekend of 460 of 850 votes cast. Quayle was sixth, with 40 votes.

Quayle said he wasn't disappointed with the results since he hasn't actively participated in any of the polls.

"They're irrelevant as far as I'm concerned. I have not made any calls, I have not made any effort," Quayle said, adding he plans to take part in a straw poll in November.

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