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To: The Cambridge City Council
c/o Margaret Drury, City Clerk

September 8, 2011

Dear City Councillors:

Please find my two attachments with your packets.

The first has to do with people riding their bikes on our sidewalks
and through crosswalks and red lights, endangering others and themselves.

The second is a copy of an ad from Skateboarding ~~International~~ *magazine*
showing a locally-known skateboarder skating across the lip of the McCreehan
Pool – also known to skateboarders, in the dry season, as “the C-Bowl” –
at the top of the 12-foot “deep end” currently scheduled to be filled with cement by
the DCR.

Thank you for your attention in this election year.

Sincerely,

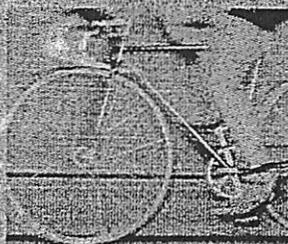
James M. Williamson

1000 Jackson Place, Cambridge 02140



2011 SEP - 8 P 4: 02
OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK
CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS

News in brief



Cyclist suffers serious injury

SOMERVILLE. A 19-year-old resident sustained serious injuries after biking

through a red light and getting hit by a car early yesterday morning. According to police reports, a Hyundai Elantra traveling on Route 16 near the Broadway intersection collided with the cyclist just before 12:50 a.m. The cyclist was transported by ambulance to Massachusetts General Hospital with serious injuries, according to police reports. A state police investigation determined the driver of the Elantra, a 46-year-old Medford man, wasn't at fault for the crash. ● METRO

Putting a spoke in their wheels

I can't stand bicyclists.

Almost every older person I talked to yesterday is totally petrified of them.

"Oh, terrible, terrible," said pedestrian Susan Martin, 73, of Cleveland Circle about streets and sidewalks now infested with these "hotter-than-thou" helmet-headed, spandex-wearing speedsters.

"Suddenly they come up from behind you," Martin said as she walked down Beacon Street with her grocery pushcart. "It scares me terribly. It's awful, just awful."

Just last week, Chet Block, 73, was getting out of his handicapped scooter in front of Michael's Deli, The Corned Beef King, in Coolidge Corner. A bicyclist came by and knocked him flying.



Margery EAGAN

The guy never stopped. The guy never looked back. The guy just kept on going," said Block, a retired Marine who still carries shrapnel in his legs from the Korean War. "It was a hit-and-run! I went up in the air and down on my backside and put my left hip out of joint. I couldn't walk for two or three days and I haven't been able to drive in a week."

And wouldn't you know it, as if on cue, a bicyclist came flying up behind us. "Watch out!" Block yelled to me, before shouting after the disappearing bike.

"See," he said, "I saved your life!"

Then a passer-by chimed in, "Tell 'em to take their damn bikes out to the country — a foreign country!"

Tom Memino is determined to make Boston the most bicycle-friendly city in America, but here in P.C. Brookline, the rage against bicyclists and their slick titanium machines is at a fever pitch.

Two weeks ago I saw a bicyclist, apparently aware of rampant hostility, careening down Beacon Street with a provocative sign on his backpack, in great big letters: "Honk if you're an (expletive)."

I honked.

He didn't even look.

I cannot stand bicyclists.

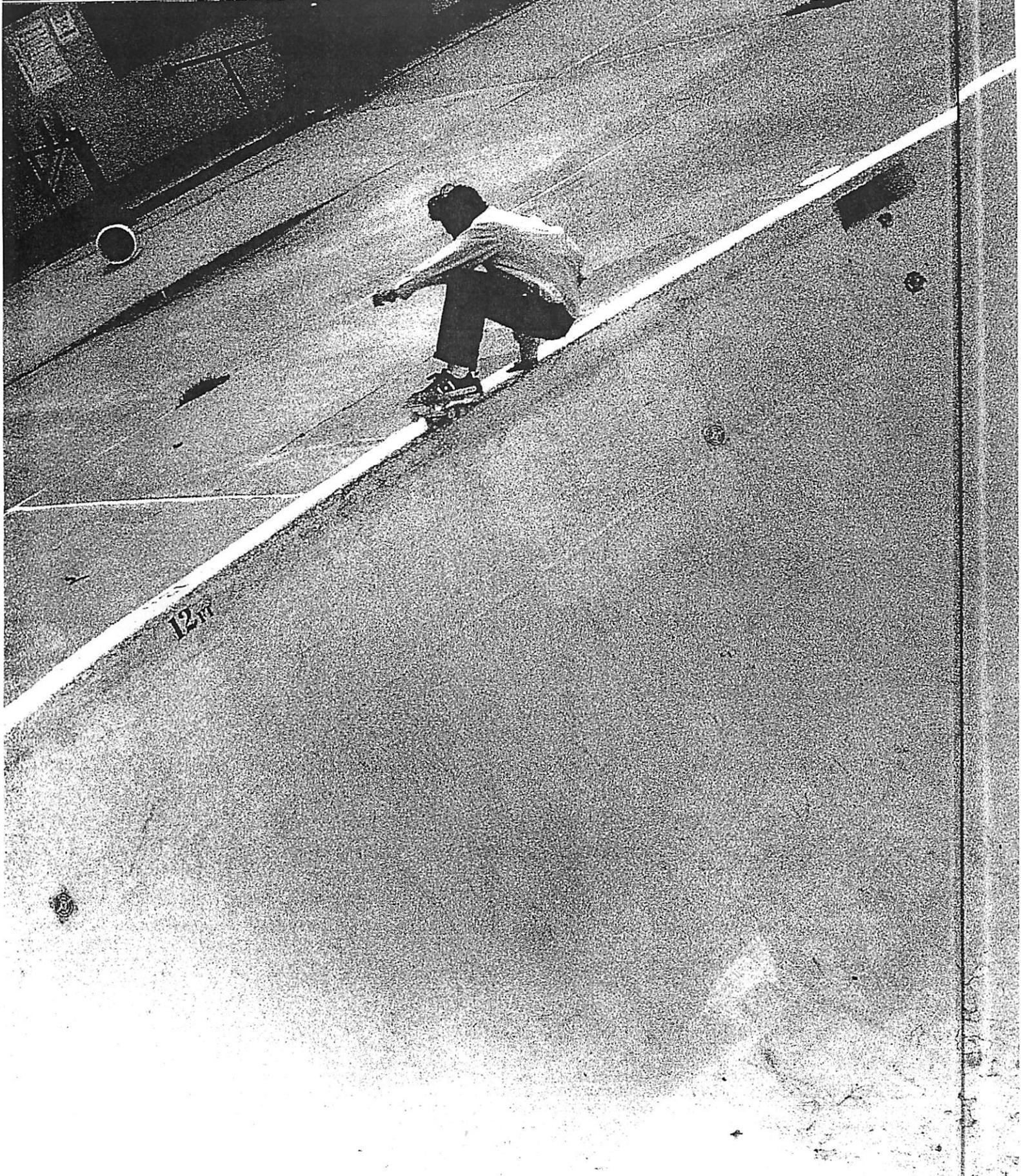
I don't stand the Day-

Glo red and orange Lance Armstrong regalia — as if they're sponsored by Pennzoil to race in the Daytona 500. I can't stand those thigh-hugging shorts with padded crotches so their superior sperm won't overheat. I can't stand those ridiculous helmets that make them look like alien insects.

I really can't stand bicyclists who ride in the middle of the road knowing full well you're stuck behind them. Do they ever move over so you can pass?

Never.

Here's the deal. Sidewalks were built for pedestrians. Roads were built for cars. Bike lanes were built to achieve the impossible: Bikes and cars sharing space in perfect harmony. Never gonna happen.



ELI REED

converse.com/skateboarding



STAR PLAYER S

Inspired by Kenny Anderson

CONVERSE