



Letters to the Editor

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Saturday, January 1, 2005

**Bus fares aren't unfair to taxpayers**

[In his Dec. 24 letter](#), Paul Smith complains that subsidizing bus fares unfairly burdens homeowners who might find paying property taxes difficult. Smith's let-them-eat-cake argument does not only fail to acknowledge its impacts on the many who cannot afford higher bus fares, but on everyone else as well. Raising bus fares increases car use, which increases potholes, the enormous cost of road maintenance and repair (a massive subsidy for automobile users that apparently does not trouble Smith), traffic and commuting times, air pollution and global warming. Increased petroleum consumption increases the pressure to drill in pristine areas and, ultimately, to go to war over oil reserves.

Bus riding should be strongly encouraged, not strangled.

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