

MOTORcycles

Typing in CAPS is considered yelling, as far as computers and text messages go. And I'm yelling MOTORCYCLES because that's what you have to do in order to be able to hear yourself talk or even think while one is nearby. With the horrible reality of gas prices these days (holding "steady" at \$3.99 in my area currently), it seems that people are turning in their minivans and SUVs for more fuel efficient vehicles, especially motorcycles.

This is unfortunate for me because I can't stand the things. Normally I'm all for people doing their own thing; if someone wants to ride a motorcycle, why should it bother me? Because simply put, it DOES affect me. I can't stand when I'm walking down the street, talking to my husband or my girls, only to have one of us drowned out by the awful noise of a motorcycle. Some moron on a motorcycle revving his engine even startled one of my kids so badly that she cried! It affects us even when we're in our own car, and the noise of a motorcycle drowns out our conversations, the kids' movie, or even wakes the kids up. Sure, you can roll up the window, but oftentimes it's too late, unless you want to drive around with the window closed. And why should I have to do that? It's MY car; I shouldn't have to be so negatively affected by other people's actions in my own car! And the fact is, these effects come from just one motorcycle. The situation can be especially compounded when there are a whole pack of motorcycles, and they do often travel in packs, which means even louder interference. I don't understand why it is that cars can be ticketed for having loud mufflers, yet motorcycles can drive down the road, revving their noisy engines and being as deafening as they please.

The main reason why I hate motorcycles doesn't even have anything to do with the fact that their racket makes their owner seem very discourteous and not aware of others at all...

I also have a major beef with the safety issue motorcycles present. It would be one thing for a rider to drive down the road on a motorcycle, not wearing a helmet – as they often do – if it only affected him... But unfortunately, that is not the case. If any type of car accident were to happen involving a motorcycle, no matter who was at fault, any driver involved would have to live with the guilt for the rest of their lives that someone got hurt. And if a motorcycle is involved in an accident, it is relatively easy for the cyclist to get injured – it's a proven fact, plus I've witnessed 2 such crashes – neither were pretty, and one ended with the motorcycle's *helmeted* occupant being airlifted by helicopter to the trauma center. His helmet was smashed almost flat, and If he hadn't been wearing it, my kids and I and whoever else happened upon that scene would have witnessed a fatality, no doubt.

So now that I've sounded off, I feel better. It's not like I think motorcycles should be banned or anything like that... though if my kids or I get interrupted by the clamor of a motorcycle and I'm having a bad day I might feel differently. And in this age of \$4/gallon gas with no end in sight to the price increase, I can't say I blame people for wanting to lower their transportation bill. I just wish it didn't affect other people so extremely! So if you're a motorcyclist, please be considerate, don't rev your engine unnessarily, it makes kids cry! Please always have safety as your #1 priority, and ALWAYS wear a helmet – not just for you, but for the rest of us! Helmets and other safety gear a motorcyclist might wear look much cooler to me than the idiots who wear do-rags or shorts while riding... What's a do-rag gonna to do for you anyway in case of an accident, soak up the blood from your head wound?

Cell Phones!

Anyone who was involved in the WCCT's most recent production of Idol Night at the Karaoke Place will probably remember a cell phone ringing and someone answering it loudly on opening night.

Yes, it was my mom. And now there is even an article written about it!

<https://www.crescent-news.com/news/article/3703471>

Ugh, mom. Why you mom!!

OOPSIE!

What NOT to do after getting pulled over:



Cops: Niles Man Backs Over Squad

Car After Getting Ticketed

Illinois: Police puzzled over driver who drove up and over a squad car.

A man who had been pulled over and ticketed by police ran backward up and onto a Buffalo Grove squad car Friday morning, apparently in his haste to drive off.

Henry Raskin, 70, of Niles had been pulled over by a Buffalo Grove officer on the 400 block of Dundee Road around 11:30 a.m. Friday for driving 58 mph in a 35 mph zone, Sgt. Scott Kristiansen said.

The officer wrote the ticket and returned to the car, and Raskin got ready to drive away. Except he went flying backward.

“(He) apparently was going to pull away at a high rate of speed, but the only problem was that he was in reverse,” Kristiansen said.

He said Raskin was not happy about getting a ticket. He said police are reviewing the squad car videotape to see what Raskin might also be charged with.

Raskin was taken to Northwest Community Hospital in Arlington Heights as a precaution.

Kristiansen said police don't believe Raskin has any medical conditions that could have led to the crash. Raskin's age also didn't seem to play a factor, he said.

The officer, a 20-year veteran of the Buffalo Grove department, was not injured, but his car will be out of service for a while.

“He ended up with the left rear wheel of the car coming through his windshield, about 6 inches from his face,”

Kristiansen said. "Luckily, he was not injured."

The squad car suffered significant damage to the front end, including the windshield and the hood.

Kristiansen said the police investigation so far shows the officer initiated the traffic stop properly. He said officers are trained to treat every stop as if it isn't a routine procedure so that they are aware when unexpected circumstances like this one take place.

"The officer stopped the car properly and positioned himself properly," he said.

From the dailyherald.com

Watching the Indiana Jones Series – Backwards

Before last night, I had never seen an Indiana Jones movie. So when the opportunity presented itself to view [Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull](#) on its opening day rather inexpensively via email coupons from Fandango.com, I couldn't resist the temptation to see what all the fuss was about.

I walked away entertained, but still a little bewildered about why the character is SO popular. The people I saw the movie with (both have seen all of the movies in the series) said this was not the best of the Indiana Jones movies. Not that it was a bad movie, but I would have chopped off about an hour of it. A few of the chase scenes ran a little long, and there was a little too much hokeyness in my opinion. Before I went, I was hearing critics talk about the Indiana Jones movies and how they are a throwback to the adventure movies of the 1930's

and 40's. I thought this might be a good explanation for some of the cheesy action; for example, characters swinging through the air and falling exactly where they need to in order to avoid certain death or to land the perfect punch, etc. I can deal with hokey action sequences. What was a little hard to swallow however, was the origin of the movie's namesake, the crystal skull. Since I'm at risk of spilling some major spoilers here – and don't read any further if you're worried about learning anything about the movie you don't want to – it will suffice to say that I did not appreciate the supernatural element they gave the fourth Indiana Jones movie.

The acting wasn't anything Oscar worthy, but that is to be expected in this type of movie. I didn't see [Shia LeBeouf](#) as the kid from [Disturbia](#), so he must have some diversity in his acting. [Cate Blanchett](#) was really good as the villainess, and I found it funny when I read that when people heard she was in the movie, they just assumed she was [Harrison Ford](#)'s love interest. People were so critical that an older man's love interest was going to be a much younger woman, then they had to eat their words when it was leaked that she was playing the part of the evil enemy. Indiana Jones' actual love interest in the movie was a character played by [Karen Allen](#) that had been in some of the previous movies, which I liked. What I didn't like is that there were 2 characters in the movie who were supposed to be former friends of Indiana Jones, however, my Indy experts tell me that neither of them were in the previous movies.

I was entertained throughout the entire movie, and there were funny jokes and interesting characters. Also a few plot twists anyone with half a brain could see coming from a mile away. During most of the action sequences, I couldn't help but feel like I was watching a video game. I was really appreciating the components of the quest to obtain the crystal skull, at least until the supernatural element came into play. Parts of the movie also made me envision a Universal

Studios ride – it would probably be really cool, maybe a splashdown ending... I didn't fall asleep during this movie, but as you just read, my mind did wander a bit, probably because of the lengthy action sequences. Overall, I'd say the movie was exactly what I was expecting, perhaps even a wee bit better. And hearing from 2 experienced Indiana Jones viewers that this was not the best movie makes me willing to give the others a try – providing they are not over 2 hours each, of course – that's just too long to sit through an action movie in my opinion!

Japanese “Inventions”

When I was talking about the best reality show ever, The Mole, the other day, it made me think of my second favorite: American Inventor. It was a show where people brought their inventions in front of a panel of judges, and the “good” ones advanced until a winner was chosen. This show was fun to watch because some of the inventions were horrible ideas, and when the inventor pitched them, it was hilarious to see their inventions and the judges' reactions to them. It was also heartbreaking at times because there were people who put up everything they had to pursue the development of their invention – and some were so bad, they never had a chance. Take Bulletball, for instance. It was a game invented one night while the inventor and his wife sipped wine and batted a cat's toy ball back and forth across a table. So the inventor proceeded to invest everything he had, even living in his car, to develop the “high caliber” tabletop game of bulletball. One of the judges asks, “So if you invested everything, what do you have?” His reply? “I have Bulletball.” Oh my. His segment on the show was very memorable (and sad – you had to feel sorry for someone who was so determined, yet his idea was

SO bad, all 4 judges said no and broke his heart) that we were talking about it the other day and decided to look it up on youtube. So, I will share his clip with you. I admire his determination, but even I wouldn't get Bulletball if I spotted it at the thrift store... see below.

I wonder if American Inventor is going to return? It was a good show, but the problem with it was that the inventions that end up winning aren't realistic. Both of the winning inventions were born out of tragedy, one was a special protective car seat thought up by a guy who lost his daughter in a car accident. The other was a Christmas tree that extinguished itself if it caught on fire. Both good ideas, but not really practical when you take cost and other factors into consideration. But anyway, I'd like to see the show again, even if they keep choosing winners based on emotional reasons.

While we were looking up American Inventor on youtube, we came across this wacky video from Japan. They call these "inventions", and they are contraptions that make a series – random objects falling, hitting other objects, etc. in order to cause the next reaction until there's a whole chain of them. Think of the game Mousetrap (found that one a few weeks ago, by the way, but it's missing the big ball!) or dominoes without the dominoes. Check it out below. You'll notice that after each series of reactions, there's a cute little Japanese song that plays – it's actually quite catchy. There are a bunch of these on the video, it's over 9 minutes long in case you're wondering while you watch if it'll ever end. I wonder if these "inventions" are shorts that aired on Japanese tv, maybe before or after some weekly show or something? Who knows, but it's fun to see the different things they came up with: