

Respect all on roads

As a recreational and commuter cyclist, I must respond to Joseph Hryn's letter of June 18.

Bicyclists riding the wrong way in bike lanes and blowing through stop signs drive me nuts, too! Ignorant and disrespectful cyclists give the rest of us a bad reputation.

However, the League of American Bicyclists reports that 50% of cyclist fatalities result from Vehicle Code violations by automobile drivers. Drivers need to understand that cyclists have *equal* access to roads and streets, except free-ways.

It is all a matter of education. Cyclists need to understand that they are required to obey the Vehicle Code, just like auto drivers.

Auto drivers need to understand that cyclists are co-equal users of streets and

roads, and cyclists have the right to "take the lane" when roads are too narrow to safely share with cars. Drivers need to learn not to make turns in front of cyclists.

Education programs for both cyclists and automobile drivers will be a significant part of the Fresno Bicycle Master Plan being written this year. As both gasoline prices and air pollution rise, there will be more and more bicycles on the road. We all need to learn to share the roads safely.

Stephen Lewis
Fresno