

Bikeway

by Ulisses Garcez



turn over the pages



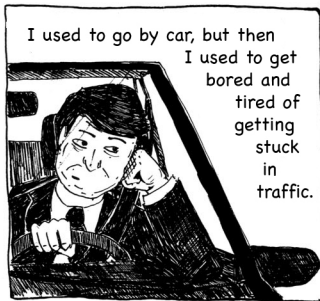
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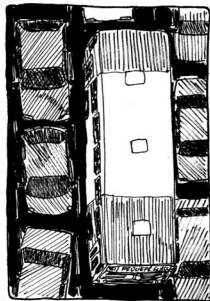
ciclomania



Lately I've gone to work by bus.



I used to go by car, but then
I used to get
bored and
tired of
getting
stuck
in
traffic.



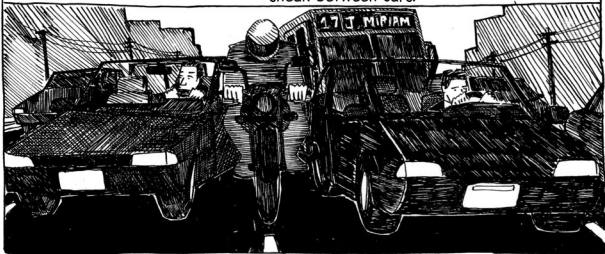
Not that the bus
doesn't get stuck
in traffic.
There are bus lanes
that speed up the
buses, but they
invariably also
get stuck in traffic.



At least while
on the bus
I can read,
rest, and sleep.

The last stop is near my house and I just catch one bus to get to work. Plus, whenever I arrive in the bus the seats are vacant. I always manage to sit during the journey. The way back is not much different. Hopefully I get to work in forty, forty-five minutes. For going back home the time increases, with luck it takes one hour, one hour and twenty minutes. It's all very stressful. There could be another way.

By motorcycle - I don't like motorcycles. Its very dangerous to sneak between cars.

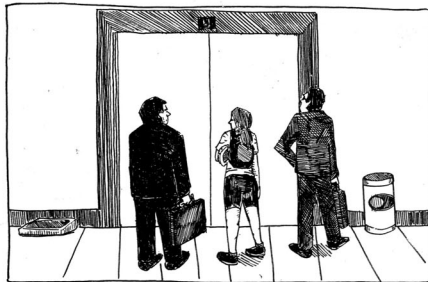


By subway - No lines meet my needs.

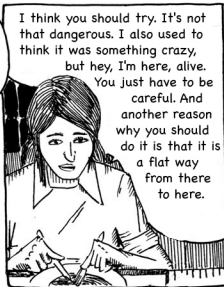
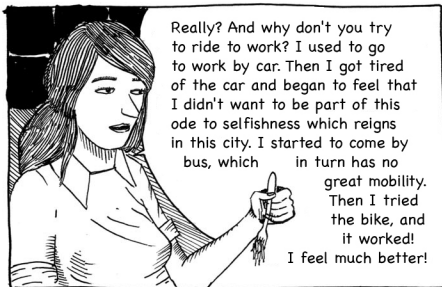
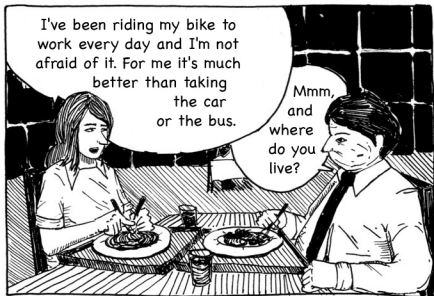


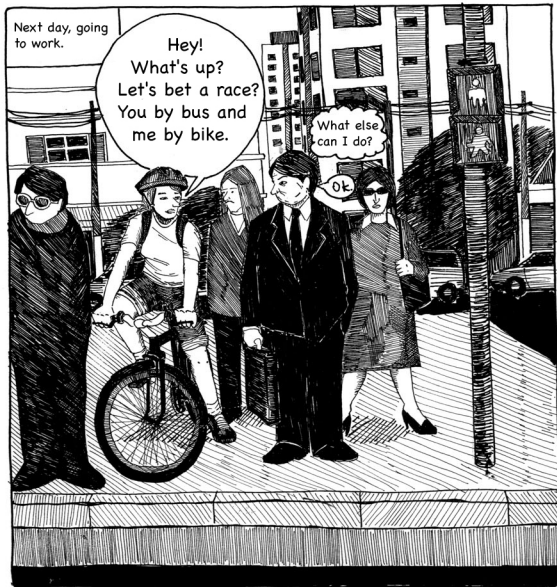
By bike - No way, just crazy people ride bikes in São Paulo. Too dangerous. There is no room for them.

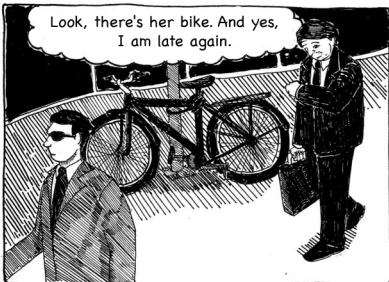
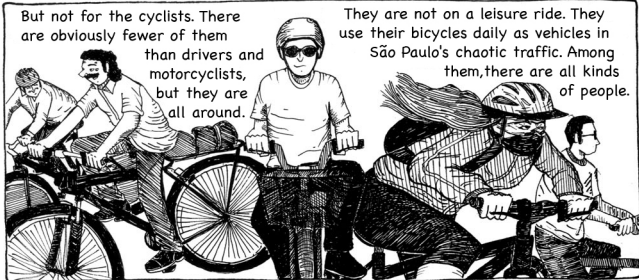


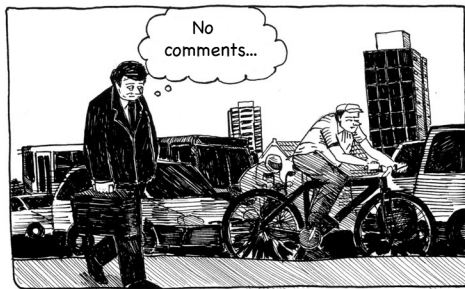
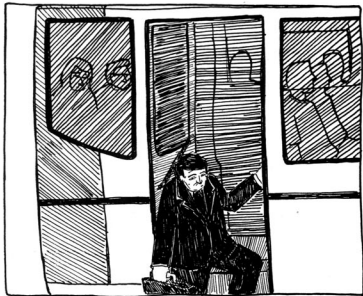














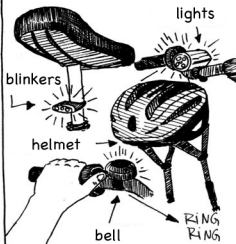
I wonder if I can make it? I'm afraid.

This bike looks nice. It's not cheap, but it seems quality stuff.



Yeah, man, you picked a very good bike. It has an aluminum frame, double wall rims, extremely resistant, good gears, gel cushioned saddle... If you plan to use it daily, this is the perfect bike! But you have to get safety equipment.

Will I get along with this gears?



Let's see where this goes. I hope it wasn't a waste of money.



Workday. First try to get to work by bike.



Oh damn, there are so many cars! What should I do?
Where do I start?!



It is better to go down the sidewalk
for a while...



Look who's
riding! I can
hardly
believe it!



Hey, come down from the sidewalk and follow me. I'll give you some tips for you to ride safely on the street.

I'm so scared that I can't even think of riding on the street.



So I climb onto the sidewalk and we're eventually going down to the street. You follow me!



Pay attention to what I do along the way.



Lift yourself off the saddle when going up and down slopes and through obstacles.



When turning right or left on corners, going up and down the sidewalk, changing lanes in the street, make a hand signal! Show your intentions to other drivers and pedestrians.



Try to keep a distance of at least one meter and half of the cars, whether they are still or moving.



1,5m

On the street, ride on the right hand lane. Climb up onto the sidewalk whenever you see buses and trucks approaching.

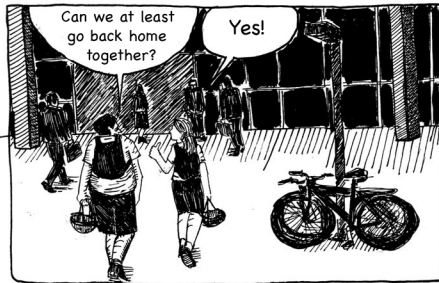


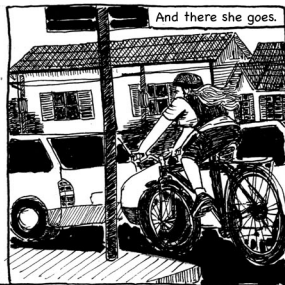
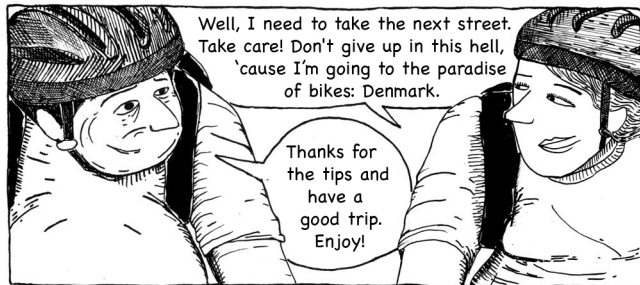
Many of the city roads are signalized with this symbol. This is part of the effort of the cyclist to create bicycle lanes for safely in traffic. In my opinion, the sidewalk is the bikeway in the 3rd world. Whenever there aren't any bikeways, it is the safest place to ride.

Therefore:

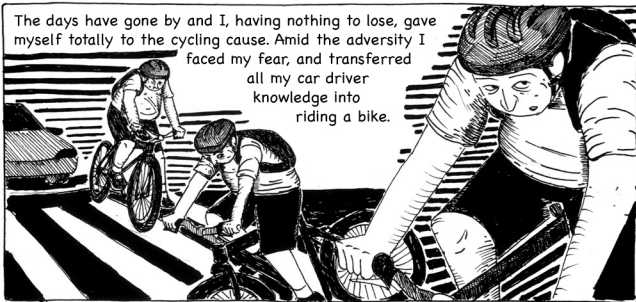




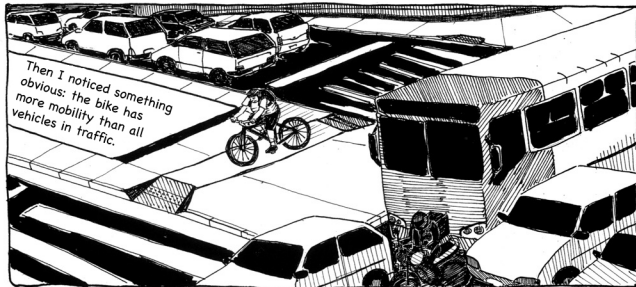




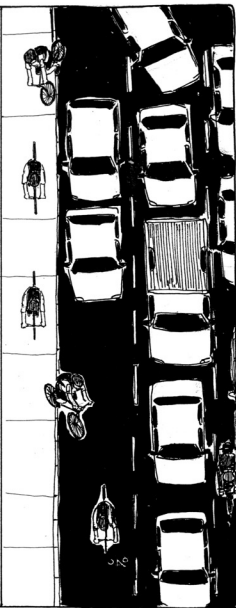
The days have gone by and I, having nothing to lose, gave myself totally to the cycling cause. Amid the adversity I faced my fear, and transferred all my car driver knowledge into riding a bike.

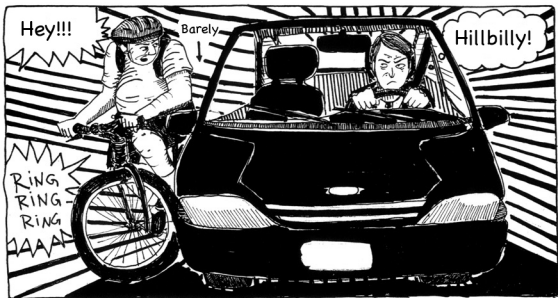


Then I noticed something obvious: the bike has more mobility than all vehicles in traffic.



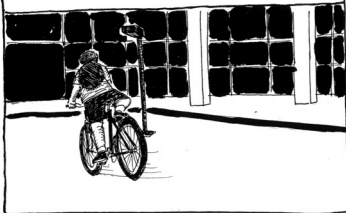
I can go around wherever is possible, I will not get a ticket if I pass on a red light or occasionally go on the wrong way.





Some people don't understand, don't want to see, don't like those who try to find a different solution within a chaotic and failed system. They insist on thinking that driving a box - which occupies about 65 square feet, weighs about a ton and on top of it pollutes the air with gases and noise - they are literally the owners of the asphalt, and so disclaim all responsibility for the efficiency of public transportation. Each one with his box, each one with his share of disrespect for the others.

Cycling saves me money, fuel...



...and especially: time.





Yes, this is me, happier, healthier and therefore more willing. Now I have a different relationship with São Paulo, for I must confess, my displacement within the city became enjoyable. My colleague was right: it's fun to ride a bike!



Look at you now! I didn't recognize you from a distance, you're doin' good! Is this all due to the bike?

Sure it is!

Let's go! Now I don't have to catch my breath to catch up with you!

Let's go then!



And there they go.

End

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