

Opinion

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Belly dancing at Ithaca Festival inappropriate

In regards to the cultural appropriation that happened in Ithaca at the annual Ithaca Festival — a festival to celebrate art, for the right of self-proclaimed belly dancing local women displaying their guts and showing their cleavage in public has me, as an Arab-Muslim-American woman, wondering if anyone else in this enlightened community finds the use of Arab women's culture for entertainment something we need to resist?

Growing up, my mother taught me that belly dancing is something only done among the female company; that's why they sit separate from the men at parties for ladies self-expression among one another. It's really unfair to do this in public in wrong form, unless the woman is a professional dancer in poverty.

I hope we can re-examine this hypersexual and exoticization character display of Arab belly dancing and, perhaps, use the festival to reexamine studying the tradition of respect and duty that is taught in most Arab women by their families and how many quietly express themselves in public.

NEVIN BAKHT-DOWDLE
ITHACA

Congress needs to stop the mass murders

The usual liars have purchased the news, social and family till the last, gun sense murders are all over TV and social media. Candidates for the family congress from the mayor of Virginia Beach that it would be logical if we could all just respect each other. The family of the killer is changed.

All of the things is done and if there had to be any action, could be helped. Nothing will come from this.

We need stronger laws on a national level. We need to stop laws allowing for situations and high-capacity magazines. We need regulations for universal background checks and closing the gaping holes in gun purchases by any and all buyers, even "low-dollars" buying citizens" as that is the NRA.

As well as the "NRA" is and will be, the big problem is Trump and the Republican Senate. The Democratic House passed a universal background bill that the Senate has promised to veto, and the Senate won't even take it up. We live in an alleged "democracy" where special interests overpowerfully will

Why electric vehicles hate Ithaca



Your Turn
 Ted Crane
 Guest columnist

If EVs (electric vehicles) could talk, they would tell you that Ithaca is a nightmare. It would be a loud chorus of misery, because there are so many EVs around here.

How many ways does Ithaca make life tough for an EV? In spite of everything, why are there so many around here, and why are they still less expensive to operate than a traditional fossil-fuel vehicle?

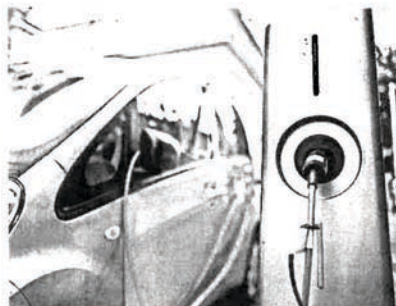
An EV — whether it's today's automobiles or tomorrow's pickup trucks and construction equipment — is at its worst when the temperature is low; when going up and down hills (mostly, going up); and when stopping and starting for red lights, speed bumps and traffic.

Cold batteries perform poorly. The smallish battery in a Prius Prime loses 20% or more of its travel range in the winter, down from 25-plus to a paltry 20 miles. Smaller EV batteries are emptied before they warm up, but empty batteries still work as storage devices for recovered energy. This is a big plus for hybrid vehicles. Sadly, traditional engines don't do too well, either, until they warm up.

Cold weather haters complain that it takes extra battery power — miles — to heat the steering wheel, seat and passenger compartment. They're forgetting that a traditional engine offers no creature comforts until it warms up, unless energy is stolen from gasoline to power heaters.

EV travelers coming downhill to Ithaca often observe little or no net loss of battery energy. The energy recovered while coming downhill offsets energy used to cross the rural flats. Traditional engines continue using gasoline even when the vehicle is coasting downhill.

Going uphill, battery energy is used rapidly. Every tenth of a mile, the "remaining mileage" meter seems to drop two or three-tenths of a mile. A safe rule of thumb is, "You can never recover the energy spent go-



An electric car charging on the street.

GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

ing uphill by going down the same hill." It's almost as frightening as watching the dashboard of a traditional engine when it says "5 MPG" while climbing Ithaca's steep slopes.

Starting and stopping is a lot like going up and down hills, only the ground is flat. Energy lost when speeding up is never fully recovered when you slow down. An EV has a small advantage here. Some energy, at least, is recovered by regenerative braking; a traditional engine can't turn exhaust fumes back into gasoline.

A high-MPG fossil-fuel vehicle might travel 40 miles on a \$3 gallon of gasoline, but the same \$3 could buy 20 kWh — and an efficient EV can go 80 miles on that electricity. Hills, red lights and traffic affect both kinds of vehicles. Cold weather takes its toll on batteries, but even 80% of a battery still propels an EV more than 60 miles for the cost of a gallon of gas. Even in wintry, hilly, traffic-y Ithaca.

Ask an EV, and it surely would rather be operated in sunny, flat, no-red-lights Nevada. It's going to hate Ithaca, but it's still going to be cheaper to operate than a fossil-fueled vehicle.

Ted Crane is a Spencer resident.