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Letters

07/11/07

Fear of trolley-related crime a scare tactic by car owners

I was surprised that the story on the proposed Charles Street trolley seemed to understate the advantages of such a project ("Proposed trolley line has steep hill to climb," June 28).

By my estimation, it would connect five institutions of higher learning (University of Maryland, Baltimore; Peabody Institute; University of Baltimore; Maryland Institute College of Art, and Johns Hopkins University, with Loyola College of Maryland nearby as well).

This means students, generally without much income, not to mention all of the academics (generally not highly paid) and the academic support staff, would be able to get to and from school and work without paying for and maintaining a car.

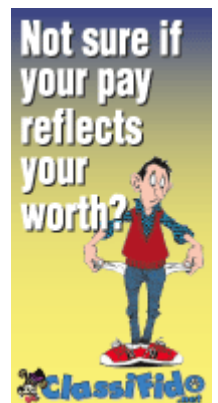
The institutions in question would be enriched by not having to shell out money for wasteful, unsightly and inherently single-use parking lots.

I also was dismayed that the story concluded with a last word from detractors against the scheme, in apparently comfortable circumstances, who fear increased crime.

This is a ruse often trotted out by the automobile-owning aristocracy to scare politicians (none of whom rely on public transit and all of whom are reliant upon such deep pockets for their political survival) into policies that undermine safe, cheap, energy-efficient and convenient public transit.

Paul Schlitz Jr.

Mt. Washington



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