

Cab Gab
by Abe Mittleman

Where Do You Draw The Line?

The story has been all over the news. It has been in hundreds of News Papers all over the world and on the internet. Taxi Driver Medhat Mohamed ordered two gay men out of his taxi. The driver thought these two men were actually about to have sex.

This driver may have gone a little too far. I would agree that perhaps this driver went a little too far in his response to what may or may not have actually happened. But I do want to come to his defense. There are many people both gay and straight that do go beyond what you would call orderly behavior in the back seats of many a taxi. Yes, I've been there. I've witnessed some lewd behavior at times while driving. I've asked some people to please control their actions. There is nothing inappropriate about that. Also, there is nothing inappropriate in my opinion in refusing to transport fares who insist on having sex in a

taxi.

In a recent NY Post article our Mayor expressed his opinion of the taxi drivers actions as being a disgrace. He said that the driver should have been concentrating on the road. Well, I'd like to see what his reaction would have been if he were driving the taxi and witnessed this distraction. Yes, distraction! How can you not be distracted by two people about to have sex in your presence?

This is a perfect example of why people who have never driven a taxi should keep their thoughts to themselves about situations they have never encountered. The fact is that there are times people use taxis as motel rooms and have no regard for the third person in their presence. That is inappropriate!

How Far Should the TLC Go?

Well by the TLC's standards as far as they can get regardless of the consequences to the drivers they are supposed to be looking out for. But we all

know that the last thing they are concerned with is what the drivers want.

For example: It really isn't much of a surprise, now that the MTA tax is being charged to passengers that these passengers are paying the tax with little objection. How long and how many times did drivers beg for some relief from the high gas prices only to be told that it would be an excessive burden on the general public and be turned down time after time. So, as absurd as the MTA tax is, it proves that the TLC was wrong and the surcharge could easily have been given to the drivers. But now the surcharge is going to the MTA! What do the drivers get? Nothing and they are losing a large portion of their tip money!

OK, let's change gears a bit and look at what they are going to do to regarding cell phone use.

First, let's keep in mind that this article is not intended to condone the constant use of cell phones when passengers are in the taxi. In fact we believe that short of an

emergency, passengers do have the right to a driver who is attentive to the passengers wishes and should not be distracted by another conversation. But there are many drivers who just want to be in touch and have some good reasons for this.

Here are a few facts:

The US department of labor has declared that driving a taxi is one of the most dangerous jobs in the United States.

Studies have concluded that taxi drivers have 30% fewer accidents than other drivers on the road. In addition we all know that taxi drivers are on the road for many more hours than the average driver.

People talk while they drive. Although not necessarily on a telephone. They talk to other passengers in the car. Taxi drivers talk to their passengers as well as other drivers may talk to passengers in the vehicles they are driving. There is no difference in this and talking on a hands free phone as long as your eyes are on the road

and your hands are on the wheel. The laws of all governing bodies recognize this and allow hands free phones, that is all governing bodies except for one, THE TLC!

The TLC's position that talking on a cell phone proposes a danger is not valid if the phone is hands free. The TLC's position of passenger attention is valid and we agree that drivers should not converse when passengers are in the taxi. But, to deny drivers a right of communication with other drivers who may come to their aid in times of danger is ludicrous!

In addition what is wrong with drivers communicating with hands free cell phones during times when it may not be busy in one part of town while it is in other parts of town? What is wrong with drivers communicating with other drivers on hands free cell phones about traffic tie ups they should be aware of? Wasn't the TLC supposed to be doing this with the drivers information screens? Well that never came to be. That was all bull! Just like the

draconian rules they want to impose for the use of cell phones that are not in any way as dangerous as they say they are!

Parasites

What is a Parasite?

Parasites invade many things including humans, mammals, birds, fish and even botanicals like trees.

Here are some examples:

Fungus growing on trees.

Caterpillar larvae on the underside of leaves.

Fleas on birds, mice, dogs, cats, and humans.

Tapeworms in humans and other animals.

The mouse is eaten by the cat, and the tapeworm is in the cat.

Oh yes, and the MTA in every taxi fare to remind drivers and passengers of their existence one ride at a time.

There are cures for most of these parasites. However, we are still looking for the MTA cure. Scientists are hard at work. Have faith a cure will be found!