

## What Rhymes With Obnoxious? Gas Hole.

5:22 pm - April 16, 2008

Tonight Jeff, the boys and I went out to a fundraiser for Dex's future public school. When we parked the car at home I was alarmed to see that someone had put a bumper sticker on my car while we were inside the event.



My surprise escalated to alarm when I processed what it said. It was styled in a black and white oval, just like those cryptic stickers that say things like MV or OBX to signify in secret prep language where you and your J.Crew-wearing family like to vacation. But this didn't name some desirable beach spot. This said *Gas Hole* on it.

As it slowly washed over me that this bumper sticker was in fact mockery, alarm segued to rage that they had *stuck* it on my car. OK, it turns out the sticker is actually a magnet, but still.

Yes, I drive a Toyota Highlander. Mock away, green America. But like Billy Joel says, glass houses.... Before you waggle your gas hole magnet at me, first know that I drive it about ten miles a week, so I think it evens out to be about as much of a gas guzzler as a hybrid. Also, we are a one-car family; my husband commutes by train so we sold our second car a few years ago.

This Robin Hood of snarky eco-graffiti wouldn't know those things. Or that the back of my albeit too-big car is loaded with canvas bags, and reusable water bottles are stashed in the drink holders, and the front seat is a mess of library books and hand-me-down coats, and we drive the car home to a house lit almost entirely by compact fluorescent bulbs even though they don't dim, and we recycle so much I've lost many square feet in my kitchen.

Nope, Mr. I'm-So-Clever-Gas-Hole-Magnet-Boy wouldn't know any of that. When he got off his bike to stick it on the back of my car, he just figured I was a big fat disgusting polluter. I mean, we must presume someone so self-righteous as to insult a perfect stranger for their transportation choice had to be riding a bike, right? Or walking? Or maybe he or she took the bus to prowl the neighborhood looking for people in fuel-inefficient cars?

When I told a friend this story, she speculated that whoever stuck it on my car probably had it stuck to their own car. In some warped version of "pay it forward" the guy in the Escalade just passes on the Gas Hole sticker to the chump parked next to him in a Toyota.

The other big thing this magnet-vandal didn't know was that I am Mommy Greenest. So on the one hand, whoever this person is totally annoyed me, but I also at least support his spirit. I wish my car was a hybrid, but I can't afford to get rid of this one. I think the major auto companies have done the world a terrible crime by not pursuing electric or alternative options for cars. I don't disagree with his passion, I just wish he'd channel it somewhere more productive. Does he really think that bumper magnet is going to shame anyone into trading in their SUV for a hybrid?

Since I'm Mommy Greenest, I'll keep that Gas Hole magnet on the back of my car just to get people thinking. Let's just hope my children never understand the pun.

For another blog about why hybrids may not be the *only* solution to going green, see The Ecopolitan's "Green Cars Are Not Enough."

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