

A quick bike fix

By Pete Jordan

Goddamn scooters

Two of the biggest nuisances for Amsterdam cyclists are, of course, tourists (walking in bike paths as if they're goddamn sidewalks; wobbling about on their rental bikes; etc.) and *brommers* (racing among the cyclists on bike paths as if the pizza they're delivering is actually a ticking time bomb in need of disposal). If those two creatures weren't bad enough, recently they seem to have mated and spawned an even greater annoyance: tourists on rental scooters.

But recently there are newer, even more disturbing sightings. In Vondelpark, where even the most brazen scooter riders obey the law by keeping out, I saw two tourists on Mercure Hotel scooters nearly take out a couple of little kids on their bikes. Later, on the Haarlemmerdijk, a pack of tourists on yellow rented scooters menacingly blared their horns at me and every other cyclist on the street. They deemed us all to be too slow for their liking. Then yesterday, I saw two more on these yellow scooters recklessly weaving through oncoming bike traffic on the Damrak bike path.

I fear where this worrying trend will lead. Let us just pray that tourists on scooters don't ever begin delivering pizza.