

A Stinking Problem

By Linda K. Jones, "Happy Gal"

I woke up to the sounds of trucks starting up and truck doors slamming, another day in the life of a trucker...

I've been driving 31 years, so I've woken up many mornings to the same sounds, facing the same routine and seeing drivers around me as they begin their day. We are a breed unto ourselves. You'll find us in every color, shape and from every background.

Twice this week, I have had the unpleasant experience of sitting up and looking out the window at a fellow driver relieving himself between the cab of his truck and his drive tires. This morning we were less than 100 feet from the front door of the truck stop...a quick shake, tuck and he went into the truck stop for his coffee or breakfast.

I wonder how he would have reacted if I'd done the same.

How many times have you walked across a parking lot with the stench of urine reeking into your nostrils from the hot pavement. Have you noticed how your feet stick to the pavement as you walk across, causing a slight tug at your shoes as you step along?

More and more truck drivers are getting diabetes, many don't even know they have it. Diabetes causes an urgent need to urinate, frequently and in large quantities. Sometimes the need to go is so overwhelming that a driver doesn't have time to make it into the truck stop. That might account for why some drivers feel they have to relieve themselves in the parking lot. Surely there must be a reasonable explanation!

Come on guys! Obviously, due to the large quantity of urine bottles scattered around the back of the parking lot, you surely could use one of them instead of urinating on the parking lot where we have to walk. I have to carry your urine residue into my truck on my shoes! Don't we deal with enough contaminants in this world, as it is?

I wonder why, when a driver uses a bottle to urinate in, can't he screw the lid on it and set it in his trash can to empty later in some out of the way place that drivers don't congregate? Animals urinate on the ground but even they look for a bush or some grass to relieve themselves on. I know this is an old, tired subject that has been written about before but for some reason, we aren't getting it!

We travel to Canada several times a year. We do not see the litter and the filth in the truck stops there like we do in America. Everyone is yelling about the Mexican truckers coming over here and we find many reasons why we don't want them traveling freely in our country. I wonder if the Canadians feel the same way about us when they see how we live and act on our highways and in our truck stops. Where is our pride?

I don't know how you were raised but I know that we will continue to be considerate of our fellow drivers in spite of the slovenly habits displayed by some of you. That old saying, "If you can't beat them, join them" ...not on your life!!!