

Letters ^{to the} Editor

Memphis, Sunday, April 3, 1977

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Not Through The Park *C.A.*

To The Commercial Appeal:

This is in response to a series of pro I-40 completion editorials, the most recent of which I found in the March 6 newspaper.

Since I first moved to Memphis in the winter of 1974, I have been fighting to choke back feelings of prejudice toward some of the local mentality — people struggling to complete I-40 through our beautiful park. The existing segment provides ready, quick access for all citizens in a portion of north central Memphis, a fairly densely populated part of the our city.

The northern loop of I-240 will surely satisfy the needs of local citizens for rapid transit to the downtown area, all northern area Memphis residents particularly. Those on the south have the south loop and those in central and east Memphis and Germantown have their choice, north or south.

To continue fighting for the completion of I-40 through Overton Park is, to me, like Don Quixote fighting his windmills, simply ridiculous. All major metropolitan areas I have visited have the same system of freeway loops around the city center, with some central access as well. It is my opinion that the portion of I-40 now completed provides for adequate access to downtown, with the loops carrying the brunt of traffic.

For those who would fight for I-40 completion simply to have a cause, let them direct their efforts toward encouraging speedy completion of the north loop; now that is a cause. Should that not suffice, let them pound sand to relieve their emotions. The preservation of Overton Park's integrity is one not-so-small victory for the local ecology, and a monument to hardheaded sensibility.

JOHN ST. PETER

Bartlett

Only pro-park den in months?

C.A.

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