

Gouged On Gas

Dear Tim:

I've been following the escalating price of gas this year (as I'm sure have you and everyone else) and I have to say the whole thing baffles me a bit. While I watch the price at the pump continue to reach record highs I read stories about the apparently massive international oil reserves. Now I'm no economist, but it seems like in order for the price to go up as much as it has in such a short period of time, either the supply would have to be way down or the demand would have to be way up. If there is plenty of oil in reserve, that takes the supply issue out of the equation. And while I realize developing countries other than the U.S. are becoming greater oil consumers, they didn't all decide to start using oil at once. Which means demand can't be that much of an urgent issue either. That seems to suggest that the only logical explanation is massive profiteering by the oil companies. Am I crazy here?

-Walking on Westover

Dear Walking:

You're not crazy. You may even be right. I'm no economist either, but what I've found



DEAR TIM

is that the best way shoppers can get my attention is with their behavior. If they don't like the items I'm carrying, they don't buy them. When they don't, I have to lower the price to move whatever I've got left in inventory and then put the products on the shelf that they want. The same goes for gas. The best way to get these guys to change their behavior is to change yours. Get out of your car. Walk when you can. Ride a motor scooter or a bike. Take the bus. They'll get the hint and eventually they'll need to get

into the business of producing fuels people want and can afford. And what's more, we may even clean up the planet in the process.

Dear Tim:

It's almost the Fourth of July. I've got a hankerin' for a hot dog. Can you help me out?

-Dog Eater on Devon

Dear Dog Eater:

If you've got hankerin' for just one, stop by our cart at the corner of Northam and Northwest Boulevard during the parade and I'll hook you up. If you need enough to feed the family, we've got fistfuls of frankfurters in aisle 5. Enjoy, and Happy 4th!

Dear Tim:

What's that sweet smell wafting over from aisle 6?

-Nose on Norwell

Dear Nose:

As Homer Simpson would say, "Donuts...aughhhhh."

Dear Tim is presented as a public service by Tim Huffman, owner of Huffman's Market. Write to him in care of Huffman's Market, 2140 Tremont Center, Upper Arlington, Ohio, 43221, stop by and say hi, or visit www.huffmansmarket.com.