

The Alternative Line

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Dear friends; The F1 circus has been decided in Hungary for the year, with Michael the shoe winning his second straight driver championship, and Ferrari winning the constructor's championship on the basis of the strong supporting role of his teammate Rubens Barricello, and his second place. Meanwhile, NASCAR has announced that they are making every effort to provide for driver safety, even while reminding all that racing is an inherently hazardous sport. Having recently been with Jess to St Jovitte to run on the newly completed renovations to that venerable circuit, then driven to the Outer Banks of North Carolina from whence I am writing this, I can attest that I am certain of that reality, but believe the statement "I remember when racing was dangerous and sex was safe" is more accurate. Especially when applied to the highway.

While enroute, I had the immense displeasure of observing that drivers in the area around our nation's capital, where they make the rules that we must comply with or lose highway funding, are clearly incompetent at knowing the basic laws of physics. Why else to explain the obvious inability to recognize the cause-effect relationship between stupidity and accidents? Not to rub salt in any wounds, but Dale Earnhart died NOT because he hit the wall at Daytona while travelling at a high velocity, but because HE hit the inside of his vehicle, and his BRAIN kept moving until IT hit the inside of his skull. When one looks at the video of the crash, it is obvious that the vehicle had little more than a 40 mph vector into the wall, despite the enormous tangent velocity which merely scattered debris over a long distance. But with the belt separated, for whatever reason, there was nothing to decelerate his BODY before it impacted the first hard part of the car it found.

While traveling down here, we observed numerous examples of American incompetence behind the wheel. In heavy traffic, it was a real pain to find repeated clumps of vehicles with large spaces between them and the next clump ahead. The cause of this was directly attributable to the stupidity of the safety nazi geniuses who believe to this day that SPEED enforcement can reduce fatalities, despite the overwhelming evidence that lane enforcement would have far more effect. Wonder why there is road rage? Because people are impatient with morons who are both failing to watch their mirrors and failing to yield right-of-way. And why? Because we STILL persist in parking radar patrols in the median or the left lane of opposing traffic to ticket those who are actually demonstrating COMPETENCE. There are signs all over the place proclaiming "keep right except to pass", but when was the last time you heard of anyone being ticketed for obstructing?

And why in a vehicle with multiple occupants is the DRIVER the only one capable of handling the cell phone? I think Virginia has the highest per-capita of these dangerous devices. I think it is an intern dating service. And almost every Stupid Urban Vehemouth had its pilot (prime passenger?) glued to one of those, and rolling along at exactly the same speed as the moron alongside them while both held up a line of those who only wanted to GET SOMEPLACE.

So GW, if you ever get a chance to read this, here is a suggestion; law and order is about SHARED agreement not to tread on EACH OTHER's rights. I don't ask that anyone else learn to drive as fast as I am capable, and I really don't want to presume to prevent anyone from deciding what THEY should drive. But we SHOULD stop enforcing speed limits, which have no meaning whatsoever, and start enforcing AWARENESS and COURTESY. As we drum into students on the track; if someone is on your tail, let them by. You won't have to deal with them for very long that way, and then you can continue at whatever pace YOU want. And so can THEY. I guess maybe it is just that my car is hard to see. So perhaps I should learn from Mr. Shoe, and get my vehicles painted Ferrari Red. They seem to pull out of HIS way anyway, and nobody there seemed to be on a cell phone, at least until they parked the cars. ;-}

