LOCKSPROCKET FILES

We stumble upon Dr. Locksprocket within the dingy confines of Manuel's Mexican Mecca. The grizzled veteran of innumerable miles beckons us to sit just the waitress arrives with his lunch; a plate of refried beans with jalapeno peppers and a quart of hot sauce on the side.

Our excuse for being here is the incessant questioning an associate, Popey O. Amos. Dopey has been pestering us to meet Doc ever since we made the mistake of telling him just how old we believed the wizened one to be.

As we took our seats the waitress returned with a pitcher of beer and a Halon fire extinguisher.

Dopey O. Amos: Revered Healer, my employer (The National Requirer) has sent me here to determine just how old you are and to find the secret of your longevity.

Dr. Locksprocket: I can't rightfully say how old I am, at least without taking my shoes off. This is a public place, after all. I will, however, admit to being slightly younger than most dirt.

NOA: At least pass on the secret of your long life.

Dr. L.: I refrain from occupying the same space as another solid object. If another object attempts to share my space, I get the hell out of the way.

DOA: It's as simple as that, eh!

Pr. L.: Not quite. There are a lot things to consider. Take passing, for instance. It's not uncommon to find individuals who wish to share your space as you

attempt to pass them. When I went to school they taught us that two objects could not share the same space at the same time. Of course that was before the new math... I too often see riders ignoring the tendencies of the four-wheeled nitwits to wander over into the biker's lane. This shortsighted behavior has enriched many an orthopedist.

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POA: What would you do to avoid this problem, Doc?

Pr. L.: For starters, always ride with your eyes open. When passing a car, keep a watch on the driver. People who talk with their hands while driving usually don't have both oars in the water and are likely to wind up playing bumper pool with anyone nearby. Also keep an eye out for traffic situations that may cause El Nerdo to come out of his deep slumber just in time to turn your bike into a piece of abstract sculpture.

POA: Ever vigilant is your slogan then.

Pr. L.: Not only vigilant but quick. If you are going to pass someone, pass 'em quick and get the hell out of the area. A high degree of speed differential when passing means a shorter time of exposure to danger.

Apparently all this talk of passing has made our hero a tad uncomfortable. He excuses himself, rises and manages to be the first of the crowd out the door.

We would like to take this opportunity to deny the rumors that Pr. Locksprocket is dead. He is, as most of you know, sick, sick, sick!

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